SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S ISSUE!

PWI'S SPRING SPECTACULAR!

ROB VAN DAM: A TWO-HOUR Q & A!

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

Crazy Gets The Gold

Sid vs. Jarrett

SUPERCARDS 2000

The Rock's Rage

FULL-COLOR COVERAGE OF Y2K's GREATEST CARDS

- WCW Uncensored
- WWF WrestleMania
- ECW Living Dangerously

August 2000
$4.95 U.S. $7.50 CANADA £3.70 U.K.
08
0 09128 00388 7

Pro Wrestling to be added to Summer Olympics!

Austin vs. Goldberg signed for pay-per-view showdown!

Las Vegas sportsbooks now taking bets on pro wrestling!

None of these headlines appeared on 1wrestling.com.

If you didn't see it on 1wrestling.com, it probably wasn't true.

AUGUST 2000

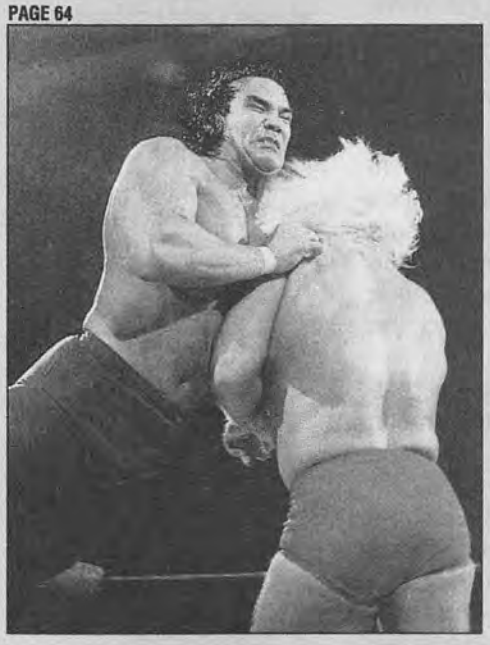
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

COVER PHOTOS:
The Rock & Stephanie by Frank Vitucci
Vicious vs. Jarrett by Duane Long
Super Crazy by Frank Vitucci
Rob Van Dam by Frank Vitucci

COVER DESIGN:
Joseph Kalman

PAGE 18

PAGE 64



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 13, 2000

FEATURES

18 SUPERCARDS 2000
EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE OF 2000's GREATEST EVENTS!
Several ECW stars lived dangerously at Living Dangerously (and Super Crazy and The Impact Players won big), Sid and Hulk ruled at Uncensored, and WrestleMania gave us plenty of thrills and memories

35 SUPERCARDS 2000: FULL-COLOR COVERAGE
36 WCW Uncensored
42 WWF WrestleMania 2000
48 ECW Living Dangerously

54 SUPER 8 2000:
A CLEAN SWEEP FOR CHRIS DANIELS!
Last year's runner-up was this year's winner. What makes winning this tournament so special is that you *must* do it strictly on your own merits

58 PRESS CONFERENCE: ROB VAN DAM
ECW's most popular and controversial star talks about his recent leg injury, his commitment to ECW, the company's deal with TNN, his experiences in the WWF and WCW, and more in a must-read interview

64 THE DYNAMITE DOZEN!
***PWI* PICKS THE 12 GREATEST SUPERCARD MATCHES OF ALL-TIME**
We went back through all the sport's supercards (not just pay-per-views) to find the best of the best. See if you agree with our choices

DEPARTMENTS

4 FROM THE DESK OF ... Stu Saks
Eric Bischoff's second chance

6 BETWEEN FALLS
Root Of All Evil; Broadcast "King"; WCW, Take Heed

8 RINGSIDE with Will Welsh
This is *the* place to find the latest wrestling news

10 IN FOCUS by Dave Lenker
Could be time for Bret to go ... and thoughts on *Beyond The Mat*

14 OFF THE TOP ROPE with Brandi Mankiewicz
"The Queen" dips into her mailbag

16 KREW-CUTS by Frank Krewda
Anyone else miss wrestling the way it was in the good old days?

68 WWF vs. WCW by Harry Burkett
Vinnie Mac gives the WWF's ratings another boost

70 THE STEEL CAGE by Dave Rosenbaum
When will the people at WCW stop living in the past?

72 WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW by Harry Burkett
The Impact Players are making too many enemies in ECW

46 ARENA REPORTS
Key match results from around the world

90 THE JAPAN REPORT by Mike Spillane
What's going on in the Far East?

91 THE MEXICO REPORT by John Molinaro
And what about south of the border?

92 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
The mat sport's most respected rankings

94 RATINGS ANALYSIS
Did the supercards shake up our ratings?

96 DRAWING BLOOD by Jason Conlan
An interesting take on wrestling by a talented cartoonist

98 HOT SHOT
Jeff Peterson takes Jet Jaguar for a ride

FROM THE DESK OF...

"It would take more than an act of Congress and slightly less than an act of God."
—Eric Bischoff, to a *Pro Wrestling Torch* source when asked in February what it would take for him to return to run WCW

OR, MAYBE, HE could be asked.

That's really what Eric Bischoff was looking for. He reads the newspapers and is familiar with the Bible. He knew that Congress and God had other things on their agendas. But try as he might to distance himself from WCW, the company he ran for six years before being run out last September, it was still part of him. Watching the company sink lower and lower did not give him a feeling of vindication. It made him hurt for the people at WCW about whom he still cared.

It would have been very easy for Bischoff to take potshots at Vince Russo and Bill Busch and everyone else who fumbled the ball after he was cut, but he always took the high road. I called him several times in hopes that he would give us the "tell-all" interview the wrestling community craved, but that was not part of his plan. In fact, there really was no plan. He would make up for a lot of lost time with his wife and kids, fly fish, fly his plane, and basically unscramble his brain.

The clearer his mind became, the more objective he could be about his tenure at WCW and what had become of the company after he was gone. Without 100 people trying to get into his head, he could now hear his own thoughts. And one thought that was clearer than it has ever been is that he loves the business of professional wrestling. Sure, he was still making a nice living from the sport, as WCW was still contractually obligated to pay him, but that's not what he wanted. He so badly wanted back into the game that he attempted to negotiate his release from WCW so that he could explore what limited options he had.

The Time Warner brass said no. They knew what Bischoff was capable of at his best and did not relish the thought of him using his abilities to help the current competition, or, perhaps, help form some new competition. Of course, Time Warner has seen the worst of Bischoff as well. He can be cold, egotistical, and loose with the company finances. All those factors led to his "reassignment" last September.

If that seems like a long time for you and me, it must seem like a millennium for the 44-year-old Bischoff. And even longer still since he and WCW were flying so high, it put ideas in the foolish minds of people like Stu Saks that the WWF could actually be in trouble. One of Bischoff's problems is that he doesn't handle success well. He'll always be reminded of the famous 1997 Prodigy quote: "It used to be fun to get the ratings every Tuesday morning, but now we're kicking [the WWF's] ass so bad in the ratings, it's just not fun anymore."

One person in particular who did not take kindly to that arrogant statement was *WWF Raw* magazine's editor-in-chief, a gentleman by the name of Vince Russo. He railed at Bischoff in print every chance he got. Russo, who would become another WCW employee paid very well to do nothing, has been united with Bischoff in the strangest combination since Stalin and Roosevelt joined forces during World War II. These two men are so different in so many ways, yet so similar in others, that this just might work.

"Get a life," Russo said to Bischoff in his "Russo Raw" editorial in the March 1999 issue. Well, Vince, he has one. It's filled with successes and failures and triumphs and screw-ups. He's done and said some things he wishes he hadn't. And he's failed to do and say some things he wishes he had. He's admitted to a lot of his mistakes and promises to do the best he can with his second chance. To his credit, he never publicly lobbied for that chance or came down on the people who succeeded him. Maybe that tells us something about the man we never before knew.

Stu Saks
Publisher

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

STANLEY WESTON
Founder

PUBLISHER
Stuart M. Saks
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
David Lenker
MANAGING EDITOR
Brandi Mankiewicz
ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Frank Krewda
Will Welsh
PHOTO EDITOR
Frank Vitucci
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR
Wendy Vetter
SENIOR ARTIST
Tracy Fedorowicz
ART DIRECTORS
Joseph Kalman
Todd Coleman
Teresa Landis
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Mark P. Gebler
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR
Cliff Campo
PRE-PRESS ASSOCIATE
David Wiesinger
SENIOR WRITERS
David Rosenbaum
Harry Burkett
Bryan Ethier
Dan Murphy
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Matt Brock
Elizabeth A. Hunter
Mitch Lucas
John Molinaro
Mike Spillane
CONTRIBUTING ARTIST
Jason Conlan
PHOTO ASSISTANT
Stephen Drew

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler
NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Rose Ann Adolfi
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Sharon Liggio
(215) 643-6385
SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8121
(740) 375-2335

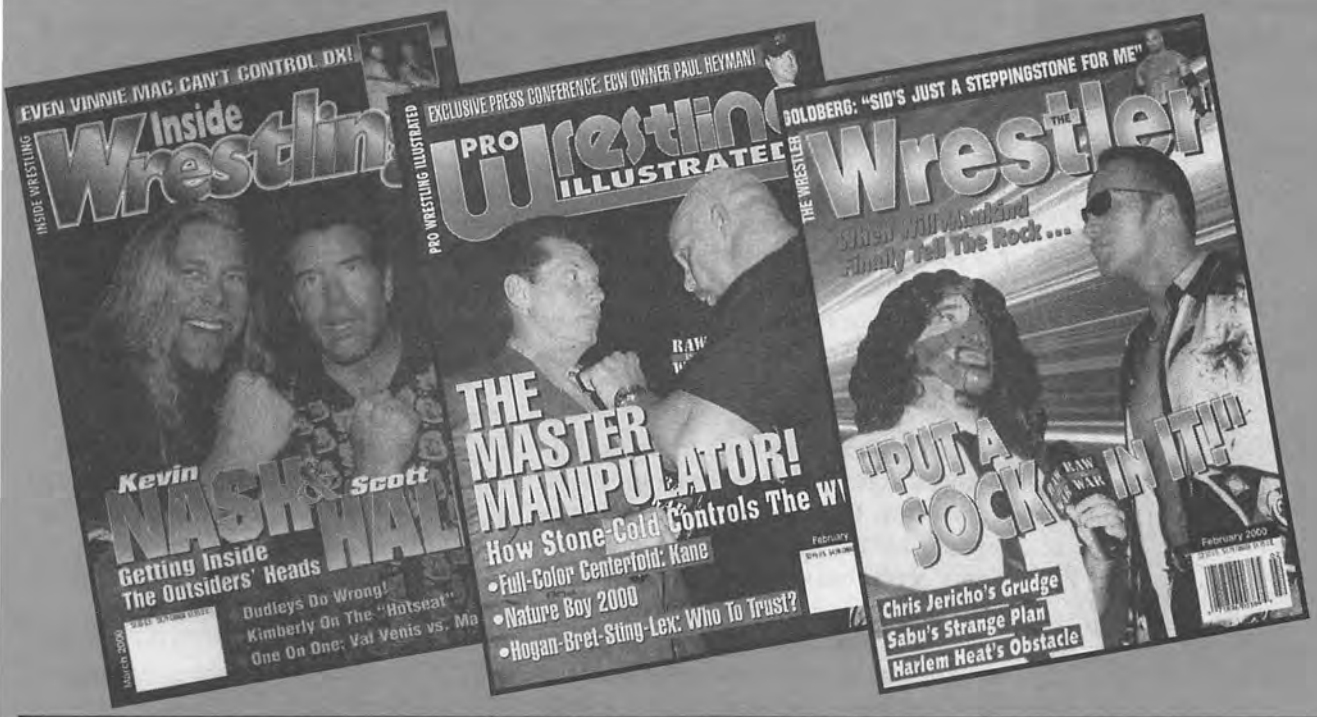
Pro Wrestling Illustrated (ISSN: 1043-7576), Vol. 20, No. 8, is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: Pro Wrestling Illustrated, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121. Single copy price $4.95 ($7.50 in Canada, £3.70 in U.K.). Subscription price $37.00 in the U.S. ($47.40 in Canada and remaining countries). Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2000 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.
Printed in U.S.A.

COMBINE & SAVE

By taking advantage of our special combination offers, you can have all of the world's leading wrestling magazines delivered to your door and save up to 30% off the regular newsstand price!



COMBINE & SAVE

	Magazines	ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues	U.S. Price	Canada/ Foreign	TWO-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues	U.S. Price	Canada/ Foreign
DISCOUNT COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE UP TO 25%!)*							
☐ New ☐ Renewal	THE WRESTLER INSIDE WRESTLING	26 (13 each title)	☐ $54.75	☐ $75.55 ($119.75 airmail)	52 (26 each title)	☐ $109.50	☐ $151.10 ($239.50 airmail)
SUPER SAVER COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE UP TO 30%!)*							
☐ New ☐ Renewal	PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED THE WRESTLER INSIDE WRESTLING	39 (13 each title)	☐ $89.50	☐ $120.70 ($187.00 airmail)	78 (26 each title)	☐ $167.09	☐ $229.49 ($362.09 airmail)

☑ **YES!** Please enter the combination subscription I have checked above. I have enclosed a check or money order for payment in full or included my credit card number to charge my purchase.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to LONDON PUBLISHING CO.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration Date: ____/____ MO / YR

Card No.: _____

Signature: _____

Send To: LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
Dept. 9
P.O. Box 2021
Marion, OH 43306-8121

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For orders outside the U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

5182 /01-00/2c

between falls

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED welcomes readers' comments on any of our stories or columns.
Send letters to:
BETWEEN FALLS
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034
Or you can e-mail your comments to **betweenfalls@aol.com.**
Letters preceded by a ☎ indicate letters left by fans on the *PWI* Hotline (1-900-884-4PWI; see ad elsewhere in this issue).

ROOT OF ALL EVIL

When Triple-H first took Stephanie McMahon as his bride, the world registered shock, but not much else. After the initial astonishment wore off, however, questions quickly arose as to the couple's future. Would the marriage last, and if it did, would papa Vince ever approve?

We addressed these questions, among others, in our June 2000 cover story, "Just Wondering Steph ... Is This Man Worth Your Billion-Dollar Inheritance?" Although the concept behind the story was innocent, there were readers who took us to task for trying to corrupt a happy home. Others, however, shared our concerns.

"Listen, if Triple-H and Steph really are happily married, you should leave them alone," wrote Ron Coleman of Hershey, Pennsylvania.

"You know, I doubt if Steph even thought of that side of her marriage to Hunter," wrote Kathy Hesland of Tampa, Florida. "She could stand to lose a whole lot of money."

"From the moment they revealed their plot, I thought the marriage was about money," said Tom Bridge of Malibu, California. "Triple-H would ask for a divorce the minute Steph's money disappeared."

BROADCAST "KING"

It's time to give credit where credit is due. Jim Ross isn't the best wrestling broadcaster working today. He isn't even the best wrestling broadcaster in the WWF today. That accolade, at least in my opinion, goes to Jerry "The King" Lawler.

Lawler, because he's such a joker, doesn't get nearly the amount of credit that he deserves. Without Lawler by the side of Ross on *Raw*, the commentating immediately goes down a notch. Need I remind everyone of the unmitigated disaster the broadcast team of Ross and Michael Hayes was?

Then compare that team to Lawler and Michael Cole, the *Smackdown* broadcast team. Now, Cole has never gotten rave reviews for his job performance, but he hasn't gotten bad reviews, either. Wonder why? It's because Lawler is his right-hand man. I know that I'd much rather spend two hours listening to Lawler and Cole than Hayes and Ross—and that's because Lawler is the best in the business today.

PAM MURDOCH
El Cajon, CA

WCW, TAKE HEED

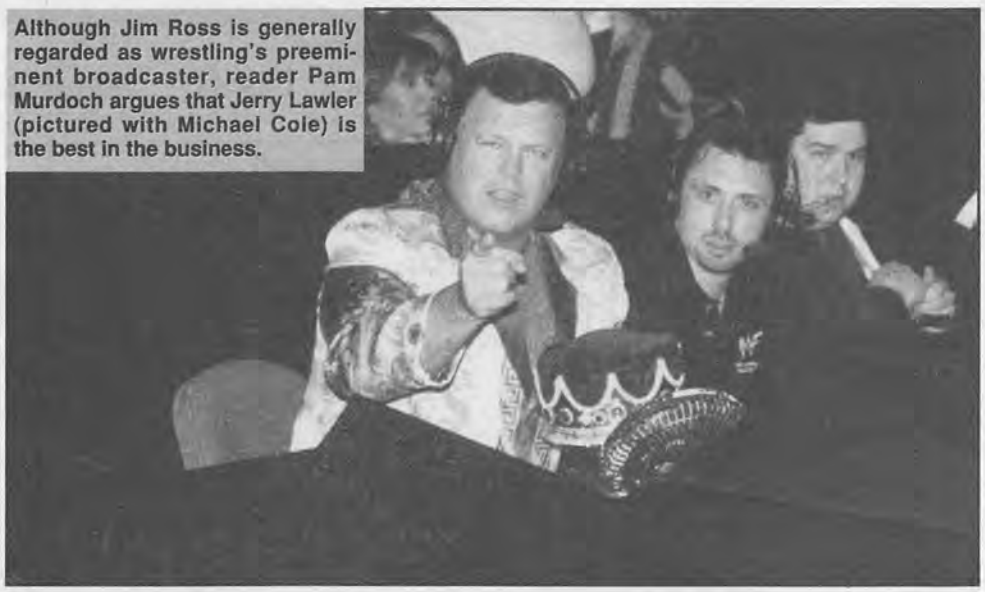
I am writing this letter to say how happy I am that Chris Benoit, Eddy Guerrero, Dean Malenko, and Perry Saturn have all left WCW for the WWF. Finally, they have gone to the place where young stars get their chance to shine. Sure, all four men held numerous championships while in WCW, but they were always being passed over for World title shots.

DANIEL HERRERA
Cerritos, CA

WCW seems to be where the WWF was four years ago. Right now, I just don't see a way for the company to claw back, especially when you consider the fact that Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, and Terry Funk are actively competing once more. I mean, seriously, how can anybody get into this great sport with these three guys hogging the limelight all the time?

EDDIE DOVEY
Lincolnshire, England

I can't believe what WCW is doing. It has such a huge talent roster, but its stars are always injured, doing movies, or running their



Although Jim Ross is generally regarded as wrestling's preeminent broadcaster, reader Pam Murdoch argues that Jerry Lawler (pictured with Michael Cole) is the best in the business.

mouths. When the NWO was re-formed, I thought that someone had finally gotten a clue, even though I didn't agree with having Bret as the leader. The fans love The Outsiders, and Jeff Jarrett has a lot of talent, but then they immediately started fighting within their own ranks. The NWO was at the height of its power when these guys were all standing side by side. What is even more unbelievable is that WCW let "The Canadian Cripple" Chris Benoit go to its rival.

MURRAY ELBOUM
elboummurray@hotmail.com

☎ SAME OL', SAME OL'

The Rock's shtick is getting old. Don't get me wrong—I like the guy, but he has to get more creative. How many times can he return to a city and say, "Finally, The Rock has come back ..." to wherever. What shocks me is that I never thought I'd get tired of The Rock, but I guess I am.

TIM CLARK
Dugger, IN

THE DEBATE CONTINUES ...

I think it's a shame that your magazine does not consider the National Wrestling Alliance heavyweight title a world title.

According to your magazine, there are three organizations that deserve world title status: the WWF, WCW, and ECW. At one point or another, all three organizations used to be affiliated with the NWA. Also, the NWA heavyweight title has changed hands outside the United States more times than the heavyweight titles of the WWF, WCW, and ECW combined.

The heavyweight title of the WWF has changed hands outside the U.S. on five occasions. The WCW heavyweight title? Only three times. We're *still* waiting for the ECW heavyweight title to be won outside the U.S.

Since 1948, the NWA heavyweight title has been won outside the United States on 18 different occasions—in countries like Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and Singapore. The most recent time was when Naoya Ogawa defeated Dan Severn in Yokohama, Japan, on March 14, 1999.

It really doesn't bother me if you call those other titles world titles. But I must ask you to please reconsider your position on the NWA title.

STANLEY HETZ
stanleyhetz@chickmail.com

CHEERLEADER'S HOMECOMING

I knew good girl Francine couldn't last long. When all your skills lend themselves to rulebreaking, you're simply not cut out to be a fan favorite.

PHILIP MARLOW
Washington, D.C.

HEART TO HART

I just finish reading both the "Steel Cage" column and the "Bret Hart Completes The Big Six" article in the May 2000 issue of *PWI*, and I must say, I was touched. Heck, these days, anytime I read something positive about Bret Hart, I almost want to break into tears.

To me, Bret Hart is the best. He's my hero and my idol. And more importantly, I feel like Bret is the father and big brother I never had. I used to admire the "Hitman" for his cunning, skill, intellect, and integrity, but these days, I admire him for his ability to survive.

KRIS COOK
Lancaster, CA

There are a lot of phony hardcore warriors in the sport today, but Mahoney isn't one of them, or so says reader Tony Morelli, who sees Mahoney as hardcore because he doesn't proclaim himself to be.

HE'S HARDCORE!

You know, there are hardcore icons and there are *hardcore* icons. Most of the people who claim to be hardcore are nothing more than wrestlers who want to be hardcore. The most hardcore wrestlers are those who don't brag, don't boast, and don't claim to be anything more than brawlers who like to use weapons.

ECW's Mahoney is a true hardcore wrestler. On almost every ECW card, Mahoney wrestles guys who strive to make themselves into what they think is hardcore. He has taken guys like Da Baldies and shown them what hardcore is all about. He has shown guys like The Dudley Boyz what being hardcore is all about. In fact, he has shown us all what being hardcore is all about, yet you never hear him brag about it.

That's hardcore.

TONY MORELLI
Springfield, PA □

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI

The cover of *PWI's* August 1990 issue featured an exultant Ultimate Warrior celebrating his WrestleMania VI World title victory over Hulk Hogan. The match was one of the most talked about in the history of the sport at the time and marked the beginning of Warrior's only world title reign.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Ten reasons why The Ultimate Warrior would become the greatest WWF champion ever and 10 reasons why he wouldn't were offered ... Details on Larry Zbyszko regaining the AWA World title from Mr. Saito were presented ... NWA U.S. tag team champions Brian Pillman and Tom Zenk talked about a unification bout with the NWA World champion Steiner brothers ... We followed Terry Gordy and Steve Williams as they plied their violent trade in Japan ... Former champions Buddy Rogers, Ivan Koloff, and Bob Backlund talked about the WWF World title in "Press Conference."

Magazine availability: Sold out.

RINGSIDE

With Will Welsh

SIX MONTHS AFTER being relieved of his duties as president of WCW, **Eric Bischoff** is back, and he's back with a very unlikely partner: former WCW creative director **Vince Russo**, who had been relieved of *his* duties in January. WCW Executive Vice President **Bill Busch**, who had been given the reigns of WCW following Bischoff's dismissal, is no longer with the promotion.

"In some ways I feel I am back in 1993, when WCW was kind of on the heels of the **Bill Watts** era and everybody thought it was as bad as it was ever going to get," Bischoff said on WCW's Internet radio show, *WCW Live*. "WCW is down and not out. The WWF is clearly a decided number one. The gap is huge. No one would bet an ice cube's chance in hell of us coming back. That is a very appealing place for me to be. My personality fits that kind of environment, maybe more than being number one. Maybe that's a character flaw I have. I like to be in a position to accomplish something nobody else believes can happen."

Looking to recapture the magic of a couple of years ago, WCW has brought former WCW President Eric Bischoff back into the fold. Will he have the Midas touch this go-around? WCW certainly hopes so.

What does this mean for WCW? Well, for starters, it means absolutely nothing unless Turner Entertainment President **Brad Siegel**, the man who pulled the switch on the changes, allows Bischoff and Russo a measure of autonomy when it comes to storylines. It also means nothing unless WCW's wrestlers, many of whom have looked less than motivated in recent months, actually band together and agree to solidly work underneath the new creative supergroup. Of course, after watching WCW over the past few months, I have a hard time imagining maineventers like **Hulk Hogan** and **Lex Luger** agreeing to work with guys like **Billy Kidman** and **Booker**. **Sid Vicious**, on the other hand, should be a man Bischoff and Russo look to for support.

Despite the reputation he has garnered over the years, Vicious has looked very comfortable working with WCW's younger talent and has become one of the promotion's most dependable stars. Many thought that would never be the case, but if you evaluate who has performed and who hasn't performed for WCW over the course of the last year, Sid must absolutely be given high marks.

Good luck to everyone involved in WCW's newest rebuilding process. You're going to need it.

What do Sid Vicious, **Mike Awesome**, and **Raven** have in common?

If you answered, "They've all been managed by **Judge Jeff Jones**," good job. That was the answer I was looking for.

Since turning in his referee outfit for the more honorable robes of a judge, Jones has been one of the most talked about figures in ECW. Many ECW insiders, shocked at Jones' unexpected success, have openly questioned how Jones has managed to land such high-profile

stars as Vicious, Awesome, and Raven during his short career as a manager. It's not as if he's a well-traveled strategist with a glowing resume he can show off to potential clients. In fact, the loud-mouthed magistrate is the antithesis of the successful wrestling manager. Most spend years upon years touring the independent circuit in search of a wrestler to take them to the top. Jones, still in his mid-20s, already has a pretty good track record for turning wrestlers into champions—world champions, even.

Before leaving for WCW, Vicious, under the tutelage of Jones, was tearing through ECW and looked ready to capture the World title. Once he returned to WCW, Vicious quickly became a dominant force, winning its World title at about the seven-month mark. Granted, Jones wasn't there when Vicious won it, but no doubt Vicious used many of the lessons Jones pounded into his head during his days with ECW.

Judge Jeff Jones may not be a real judge, but he has been instrumental in deciding who will wear ECW's World title belt. World champ Mike Awesome sure doesn't care whether Jones' adjudication techniques are legal.

Mike Awesome hadn't done much in ECW during his previous stints with the promotion, but when he showed up with Jones for the first time at Anarchy Rulz '99, he became the ECW World heavyweight champion less than an hour later. And save for a span of about six days, he's been the champ ever since. Jones also led Awesome and Raven to their first ECW World tag team title together, yet another shining accomplishment.

Jones has definitely had an impressive run for a man so new to the sport—and he isn't shy about telling people that, either.

"Come here, Welsh," Jones said. "I've seen a lot of stuff about my man Mike in your magazines, but I've barely seen a mention of me. I'm the one who got Mike the ECW World title, and I'm the one who has helped him keep it around his waist. I'm one of the youngest, most successful managers ever in the sport, but I didn't even get an honorable mention in last year's Manager of the Year voting. You people need to respect that when it comes to managing, I'm the man in this sport right now."

As much as I hate to admit it, Jones has been wrestling's most impressive manager over the course of the past year. Although Awesome and Raven lost their ECW World tag team title to **The Impact Players** at Living Dangerously, it wouldn't shock me in the slightest to see Raven eventually align himself with Jones on a permanent basis.

Lane and **Rave** have me intrigued. Instead of using the obvious talents of **Miss Hancock** to lead them to WCW World tag team title shots and main-event matches, they tossed the vivacious blonde to the curb in an effort to make good on their own. Since dismissing Hancock, however, the short-skirted hottie has gone out of her way to harass the duo. I caught up with both Lane and Rave at a recent *Nitro* and spoke to them about their relationship with Hancock and why they feel she has been tormenting them.

"There's no doubt that Miss Hancock is a lovely lady," said Lane. "But we don't need her to make us look important or help us win matches."

"Besides, when she comes out, all the other rats around the ring don't want anything to do with us," chimed in Rave. "And we know why she's continued to come to the ring. It's not a revenge thing—you saw how she planted that kiss on me—it's because she wants to get back with us, which, you know, I can't really blame her for. All the smart rats know that Lane and Rave are where it's at in WCW."

Idol's right. Lane and Rave are part of the future of WCW, and I'm glad that WCW matchmakers have finally put these two guys in a position to become stars. No longer is Lane a **Chris Jericho** wannabe. No longer is Rave a sign-carrying freak. Lane and Rave are two talented, young potential stars for WCW. WCW wants to rebuild? It made a good move by giving Lane and Idol a second chance.

The Acolytes are two of the baddest men in the WWF for one simple reason: They make grown men and women walk through a propped up door placed in the middle of nowhere just to get a chance to speak to them.

In all seriousness, The Acolyte Protection Agency has been a windfall for the team. In a business such as professional wrestling, there are people in need of protection every day. What better way to make money

(Continued on page 82)

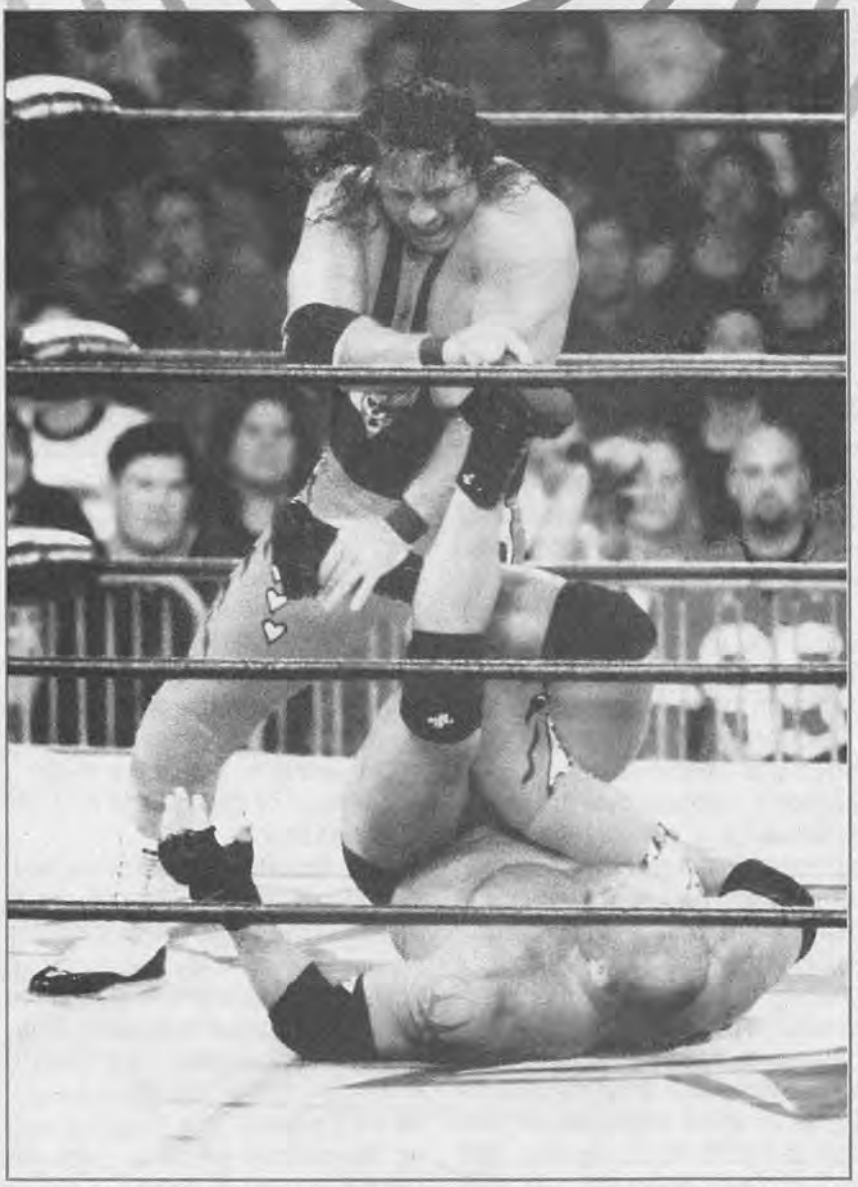
in focus

By Dave Lenker

END OF THE LINE FOR BRET?

I wonder what goes through Bret Hart's mind as he slides out of bed every morning. I imagine he does his best to stay in a positive frame of mind, though it must be hard at times. Probably still thinks about Owen. Probably thinks about all the bad things that have happened to him in the last few years and wonders when some really good things are going to happen to him. Maybe even wishes he could turn the clock back about three years and do some things differently.

The most recent very bad thing to happen to Bret took place at Starrcade, when he suffered a serious concussion during his match with Goldberg. He wrestled for a few weeks after incurring the injury, but unless you followed the recent WCW European tour, you haven't seen him in a ring since. In March, Bret was telling people not to expect to see him back in the ring until July at the earliest. He even told one Canadian newspaper that he had trouble remembering what he did on Christmas.



Bret Hart is still feeling the effects of a brutal match with Goldberg at Starrcade. The concussion he suffered in that bout is still keeping him out. He ought to seriously consider retirement.

Concussions are serious business, folks. You don't just take time off, get some rest, then come back good as new. Their effects are cumulative. Every time you get a concussion, you get more susceptible to suffering another one.

If I'm Bret Hart and I'm just a few months away from celebrating my 43rd birthday, I'm thinking about that when I get up every morning *and* when I turn out the light in my bedroom every night. I'm also thinking about the state of WCW right now. I'm thinking that the company is in need of a total overhaul. I'm thinking that the company can no longer be built around guys like Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and Sting. I'm thinking that a lot of the guys who should have been a big part of the future of WCW have left. And I'm not feeling any better.

We were all asking this question last summer after Owen's tragic death, but I have to ask it again: Is there any reason for Bret to come back?

If he didn't love the wrestling business so much, he wouldn't have come back last summer, but he did. Even though the business isn't what it was when Bret first got involved, he still loves it. I know this because despite his injuries, he traveled to Europe this winter just so he wouldn't disappoint the thousands and thousands who turned out for those shows. He couldn't wrestle, of course, but he came out and addressed the fans during the shows across the pond.

If he does feel the need to come back—whether it's for the money, because he feels an obligation to WCW, or for some other reason—I can't imagine him staying around much longer, certainly not long enough to see WCW become a thriving promotion again, as that could take a few years at this point.

It's like the superstar football or hockey player who's nearing the end of a glorious career, suddenly suffers a devastating season-ending injury, then watches as his team goes into full rebuilding mode. Does he want to work so very hard to come back for one more season with a team that's going nowhere in the short term? Maybe if his team promises to deal him to a contender.

Bret Hart has always said that he deserves the chance to come back in a promotion that can allow him one last glorious run. WCW can't offer that to him right now. I can't see Bret joining ECW this late in his career. That leaves the WWF as the only other "contender," and that doesn't look like much of an option, either.

I'm not sure if Bret is a particularly religious man, but if he is, maybe he should take this concussion as a sign that it's time to just walk away and move on.

NO HOLLYWOOD ENDING

On Friday night, I saw *Beyond The Mat* on the big screen. On Saturday night, I watched The Rock, The Big Show, Mick Foley, Triple-H, and Vince McMahon ham it up on *Saturday Night Live* on the small screen.

I was entertained on both nights, albeit for different reasons. I expected to laugh at The Rock on *SNL,* and I did. I know The Rock is funny. I didn't know exactly what to expect from *Beyond The Mat,* but I was counting on the segment of the documentary focusing on Jake Roberts to leave the strongest impression on me.

It did.

I think we all wanted to believe that the Jake Roberts story was going to have a happy ending when he returned to the WWF four years ago and openly spoke of all the demons that haunted him during his adult life and how God had helped him deal with his substance abuse problems. More than 20,000 of you were touched enough to vote him Inspirational Wrestler of the Year for 1996.

Good for Jake, we thought. *He's going to have a nice, happy life after wrestling.*

Roberts didn't hang around the WWF very long, though. And his story doesn't have a happy ending. In fact, as director Barry Blaustein so vividly shows us in *Beyond The Mat,* the ending to the Jake Roberts story hasn't been written yet. Jake is still out there, drifting from town to town and booking to booking. He doesn't look very good, but fans in little towns around the country are still paying to see him. He even made an appearance on pay-per-view last year, participating in the main event of the disastrous Heroes of Wrestling show in October.

If you missed that show, be glad you did. Jake completely embarrassed himself by slurring his words during an interview and making numerous lewd gestures during the show.

Jake Roberts is still active on the independent circuit and not necessarily because he loves the sport. The documentary *Beyond The Mat* shows just how difficult Roberts' life has been—and still is.

The substance abuse problems still haunt Jake in a big way. The movie shows him meeting his daughter for the first time in four years and not really knowing what to say to her. It also shows him working outside with his father, former wrestler Grizzly Smith, for about an hour without sharing more than a few words with him. Roberts, it seems, is still searching for his father's love and still looking for ways to show his daughter that he really does love her. Sadly, Blaustein notes that Roberts hasn't seen his daughter since the uncomfortable meeting between the two that we witness in *Beyond The Mat.*

One of the last images we have of Jake in the movie is one in which he tells us not to pity him, that he got everything he asked for in life. I do pity him, though, because there's still time for him to try to get real help. There's still a chance that the Jake Roberts story could have a happy ending.

I hope The Rock, Triple-H, and all the other megastars in the business today feel a little pity for him as well. More importantly, I hope they realize that as great as their lives might appear to be today, the fall from the top of Titan Towers to the ground floor of a Ramada in the middle of some rundown little town in Nebraska isn't that as big as they might think. □

BACK ISSUES OF PRO Wrestling® ILLUSTRATED

Complete your collection of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. Don't miss out on the excellence that has made *PWI* the leader in wrestling journalism! Each issue contains a giant FULL-COLOR poster of one of your favorite wrestling stars, plus, beginning with the September 1990 issue, *PWI* is packed with color in every issue! Quantities are limited, so order today!

only $5 each

June 1984: The Carnage Continues: Why The NWA Is Afraid To Stop Ted DiBiase. Centerfold: Dick Slater. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Magnum-II, Patera & Blackwell-Rock 'n' Rolls, One Man Gang.

February 1985: AWA World Champion Rick Martel: Five Steps To Greatness. Centerfold: Magnum T.A. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Blanchard-Rhodes, Bob Backlund, Paul Ellering.

April 1985: Jimmy Snuka: "I Want Piper!"—Even If It Kills The Tonga Kid. Centerfold: Ronnie Garvin. Plus: Flair-Rhodes, Terry Gordy, Jim Garvin, Road Warriors.

June 1985: Super Dream Contest: Play Dusty Rhodes' Trivia Game And Win His Boots! Centerfold: Barry Windham. Plus: Flair-Kerry, Fabulous Ones-Road Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Magnum T.A.

November 1987: When The Going Gets Tough ... Will Nikita Koloff Turn Bad Again? Centerfold: George Steele. Plus: Road Warriors, Hulk Hogan, Jimmy Hart, Barry Windham.

June 1988: Is The End Near For Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Tully Blanchard. Plus: Midnight Rockers-Kelly & Kiniski, Al Perez, Dusty Rhodes, Magnificent Muraco.

August 1988: Macho Madness—The Torch Is Passed. Centerfold: Al Perez. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Bruno Sammartino, Luger & Windham, Eddie Gilbert.

November 1988: He's Back! But Is Savage's Belt Beyond Hulk's Reach? Centerfold: Midnight Express. Plus: Madusa-Hyatt, Rock 'n' Rolls, Dusty Rhodes, Warlord & Barbarian-Ax & Smash, Kevin Von Erich & Jessica McClure.

June 1989: Hogan vs. Savage—WrestleMania V Preview. Centerfold: Rick Steamboat. Plus: Dustin Rhodes, Road Warriors, Larry Zbyszko, Rock 'n' Rolls-British Bulldogs.

July 1989: Rick Steamboat: "I'm Not A Real Champ Till I Beat Luger & Sting. Centerfold: Roddy Piper. Plus: Paul E. Dangerously, John Studd, Dallas Page.

October 1989: Muscle-For-Muscle, Who's More Awesome—Luger Or Hogan? Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting, Jimmy Snuka, Lawler-Perez, Dallas Page.

November 1989: Dusty Rhodes—Alone And In Danger. Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Luger-Steamboat, Ultimate Warrior, Robert Fuller, Rick Steiner.

January 1990: Warrior's Next Victim: Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Ross, Midnight Express.

February 1990: Luger's Holiday Gift For Flair: Has The "Total Package" Wrapped Up The NWA Title? Centerfold: Bret Hart. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Woman, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams.

May 1990: Hulk Hogan: Primed And Ready For WrestleMania VI. Centerfold: Great Muta. Plus: Piper-Rude, Eric Embry, Rock 'n' Rolls, Sid Vicious, pain.

June 1990: Hogan vs. Warrior: Why WrestleMania VI Won't Settle This Feud. Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Nikita Koloff, Cornette-Rock 'n' Rolls, Rhodes-Savage, Anderson-Sawyer, boxers vs. wrestlers.

July 1990: The Maturing Of Lex Luger: The "Total Package" Becomes The People's Choice. Centerfold: Rick Martel. Plus: Skyscrapers, Bobby Heenan, Mr. Saito, referees.

September 1990: The Hulkster's Wrath: 7,000 Miles To Violent Redemption. Centerfold: The Steiners. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Sting, Destruction Crew, Four Horsemen, Curt Hennig.

October 1990: Sting's Painful Lesson: You'll Have No Friends At The Top. Centerfold: Brutus Beefcake. Plus: Orndorff-Blanchard, Tugboat, Teddy Long, Ultimate Warrior, Road Warriors.

November 1990: Sting Wins The NWA World Title! "If This Is A Dream, Don't Wake Me." Centerfold: Road Warriors. Plus: Rude-Warrior, Ric Flair, Funk-Hansen, muscle and power.

February 1991: WrestleMania VII Contest. Centerfold: 1991 calendar. Plus: Sid Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Scott Steiner, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.

March 1991 (Special Issue): 1990—The Year In Wrestling. 1990 In Review, Achievement '90 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1991.

April 1991: Sgt. Slaughter Guilty Of Treason! Centerfold: Tom Zenk. Plus: Sting, Magnum T.A., Jesse Ventura, Lawler-Gilbert, Hogan & Warrior.

June 1991: Hulk Hogan: America's Hero. Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Simmons-Reed.

July 1991: The War Is Over! Hulk Hogan Liberates The WWF Belt From Sgt. Slaughter! Centerfold: Brian Pillman. Plus: Horsemen, Lex Luger, Eric Embry, Demolition.

August 1991 (Special Issue): Supercards '91. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: WrestleMania VII, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior, Owen Hart, Koloff-Luger.

October 1991: Sid Justice: The Second Coming Of Hulk Hogan. Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Hogan-Slaughter, Terrence Taylor, Barry Windham, Williams-Bigelow.

November 1991: Your Wedding Gift For Savage & Elizabeth: Help Lift The "Macho Man's" Suspension! Centerfold: Bobby Eaton. Plus: Tito Santana, Bushwhackers, Jushin Liger, Brian Pillman.

December 1991: *PWI* 500. Centerfold: Rick Steamboat. Plus: Ron Simmons, Johnny B. Badd, Flair-Hogan.

January 1992: Ric Flair: He'll Make Hulk Hogan Look Like An Amateur. Centerfold: Ron Simmons. Plus: Rick Steiner, Ultimate Warrior, Lex Luger.

February 1992: Has Hulk Hogan Had Enough? Centerfold: 1992 calendar. Plus: Sting, Justice-Roberts, hot prospects, Eddie Gilbert.

May 1992: Revitalized In Tokyo: Hulk Hogan Is Super-Psyched For WrestleMania VII! Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting & Muta-Steiners, Jarrett & Fuller, Lightning Kid, Randy Savage, intimidation.

June 1992: Exclusive *PWI* Interview: Roddy Piper Speaks Out! Centerfold: Dustin Rhodes. Plus: Dangerously-Sting, Abdullah-Cactus, Sid Justice, Randy Savage.

July 1992: The Best Of The Best—The Masters Of Their Craft. Centerfold: Randy Savage. Plus: Liger-Pillman, Jim Neidhart, U.S.-Japan, Ric Flair.
September 1992: Savage vs. Sting: Why It Isn't That Unlikely. Centerfold: Nikita Koloff. Plus: Steiners, Barry Windham, Sid Justice, Hodge & Weston, Shawn Michaels.
October 1992: The Hatred Still Runs Deep: Ultimate Warrior vs. Randy Savage—They'll Settle Up At SummerSlam! Centerfold: Cactus Jack. Plus: Steve Williams, Tom Zenk, WWF title controversy, fire match, Eric Embry.
November 1992: The British Bulldog: Hounding The Hitman. Centerfold: Ultimate Warrior. Plus: Honky Tonk Man, Steiners, Undertaker, Madusa, perfect wrestler.
January 1993: New WWF World Champion Ric Flair: His SummerSlam Plan Works To Perfection. Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Ron Simmons, Kerry Von Erich, Rude-Roberts-Steamboat.
February 1993: No One Can Cut Down Razor Ramon. Centerfold: Curt Hennig. Plus: Jake Roberts, Pillman-Dustin, Ric Flair-Road Warriors, Rick Rude, Snuka-Muraco.
April 1993: The Steiners: Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Wrestling's Most Awesome Tag Team. Centerfold: Barry Windham. Plus: Bob Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk & Sasaki, Davey Boy Smith.
May 1993: WrestleMania Without Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: The Undertaker. Plus: Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior.
April 1996: WCW World Title Turmoil. Centerfold: The Kid. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Ahmed Johnson, Bob Armstrong, Michaels-Bret, Public Enemy.
May 1996: Un-Natural! The WWF Has Finally Gone Too Far! Centerfold: Public Enemy. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn, Ric Flair, Giant.
July 1996: Is Shawn Michaels Leaving The WWF? Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Goldust, Hulk Hogan, Giant, Ric Flair.
October 1996: Peaking Too Soon: Will The Giant Be Ruined By His Own Success? Centerfold: Goldust. Plus: Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Bulldog, Lex Luger.
November 1996: Giant-Michaels: The War To End All Wars. Centerfold: Dreamer, Beulah, Kimona. Plus: Sunny, Bret Hart, World Peace Festival, Yoshi Kwan.
Winter 1996 (Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Centerfold: Shawn Michaels.
February 1997: Mr. Perfect: "Shawn Michaels Stole My Life." Centerfold: "Psycho" Sid. Plus: Kroffat & Furnas, Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, New Razor & New Diesel.
April 1997: How Winning The Title Saved Psycho Sid's Sanity. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Jeff Jarrett, Unofficial/Officials, Chris Jericho.
February 1998: Sting vs. Hogan—The Match Of The Century! Centerfold: Hogan vs. Sting fight poster. Plus: 16-page Starrcade preview, Perry Saturn, Dude Love.
March 1998 (Special Issue): 1997—The Year In Wrestling. 1997 In Review, Achievement '97 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1998.
April 1998: The DeGeneration X Debate: Will It Save Or Ruin The WWF? Centerfold: Ken Shamrock. Plus: Bret Hart, Undertaker-Kane, Melanie Pillman.
May 1998: Starrcade Scandal! We Hate To Say It ... But Give The Belt Back To Hogan: Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Mero & Sable, Taz, Taka Michinoku.
June 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 PWI Poll. Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Sabu, Lex Luger, Sting, Rocky Maivia, Bill Goldberg.
July 1998: WWF vs. WCW: Which Is Better? Centerfold: Rocky Maivia. Plus: DDP-Benoit, Bill Goldberg, Ahmed Johnson.
September 1998: Austin On Her Mind: Can Chyna Succeed Where Michaels And Hunter Failed? Centerfold: Bill Goldberg. Plus: Booker-Jericho, Al Snow, Hollywood Hogan, Undertaker.
October 1998: Bret Screws Bret, Part II. Centerfold: Hunter Hearst Helmsley. Plus: Jim Ross, Marcus Bagwell, WWF controversy, FBI.
Holiday 1998 (100-Page Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Eighth Annual Special.
January 1999: No Evil! Can Today's Fans Accept The Warrior's Creed? Centerfold: Chyna. Plus: Sting, Bill Goldberg, Summerslam.
February 1999: The 50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling! Centerfold: The Nitro Girls.
March 1999 (100-Page Special Issue): 1998—The Year In Wrestling. 1998 In Review, Achievement '98 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1999.
April 1999: The Crock! The Title Change That Screwed The World! Centerfold: Chris Jericho. Plus: Bill Goldberg, Tommy Dreamer, Booker T, more Unofficial/Officials.
May 1999: Who Holds The Key To WrestleMania XV? Centerfold: Konnan. Plus: Mark Henry, Sting-Nash, Bill Alfonso, Brian Hildebrand.
June 1999: (100-Page Special Issue): The 1999 *PWI* Poll. Plus: Mankind, Flair & Turner, VMac, Steiners, New Japan-UFO.
July 1999: Warning! This Team Will Self-Destruct In 15 Seconds! Centerfold: X-Pac. Plus: New Jack-Dudleys, Jesse James, Venis & Godfather, Sting-Bischoff-Flair.
August 1999: (100-Page Special Issue): Supercards '99: WWF WrestleMania, WCW Uncensored, ECW Living Dangerously. Plus: Super 8, Bam Bam Bigelow, Jerry Lawler, tag team wrestling.
September 1999: Why Stone-Cold Might Get Out While He's Still On Top! Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Kidman & Misterio, The Rock, Bret Hart, Taz-Sabu.
October 1999: Why The World Must Fear Scott Steiner, By Buff Bagwell. Centerfold: Mankind. Plus: Kane & X-Pac, The Godfather, Perry Saturn, 20th anniversary readers' poll.
November 1999: The Women Of The WWF: There's More To Their Power Than Their Looks. Centerfold: Owen Hart. Plus: Rey Misterio Jr., Roddy Piper, Steiners, Steve Austin.
December 1999: Steve Austin: "CEO This! I'm The Damn Champ!" Centerfold: Rey Misterio Jr. Plus: Randy Savage, Jimmy Hart, WCW youth, Billy Gunn.
Holiday 1999 (100-Page Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Ninth Annual Special.
January 2000: The Millennium Man Mouths Off! An Unforgettable Hour With Chris Jericho! Centerfold: Taz. Plus: Chris Benoit, Sid-Goldberg, Triple-H.
February 2000: The Master Manipulator! How Stone-Cold Controls The WWF. Centerfold: Kane. Plus: Paul Heyman, Hogan-Bret-Sting-Luger.
March 2000 (Special Issue): 1999—The Year In Wrestling. 1999 In Review, Achievement '99 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 2000.
April 2000: The Rock vs. Stone-Cold: Let's Settle It At WrestleMania. Centerfold: Chris Benoit. Plus: DDP, Goldberg-Sid, more Unofficial/Officials.
May 2000: (100-Page Special Issue): The Y2K *PWI* Poll. Plus: Mitsuharu Misawa, Triple-H, Bret Hart, Hollys, Chyna & Aysa, ECW returnees.

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA
☐ MasterCard
Card number: _____
Expiration date: ____/____
MO/YR

Signature_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____**APT**____

CITY_____**STATE**_____**ZIP**_____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum).

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

☐ JUN 84	☐ FEB 91	☐ MAY 93	☐ MAR 99
☐ FEB 85	☐ MAR 91	☐ APR 96	☐ APR 99
☐ APR 85	☐ APR 91	☐ MAY 96	☐ MAY 99
☐ JUN 85	☐ JUN 91	☐ JUL 96	☐ JUN 99
☐ NOV 87	☐ JUL 91	☐ OCT 96	☐ JUL 99
☐ JUN 88	☐ AUG 91	☐ NOV 96	☐ AUG 99
☐ AUG 88	☐ OCT 91	☐ WIN 96	☐ SEP 99
☐ NOV 88	☐ NOV 91	☐ FEB 97	☐ OCT 99
☐ JUN 89	☐ DEC 91	☐ APR 97	☐ NOV 99
☐ JUL 89	☐ JAN 92	☐ FEB 98	☐ DEC 99
☐ OCT 89	☐ FEB 92	☐ MAR 98	☐ HOL 99
☐ NOV 89	☐ MAY 92	☐ APR 98	☐ JAN 00
☐ JAN 90	☐ JUN 92	☐ MAY 98	☐ FEB 00
☐ FEB 90	☐ JUL 92	☐ JUN 98	☐ MAR 00
☐ MAY 90	☐ SEP 92	☐ JUL 98	☐ APR 00
☐ JUN 90	☐ OCT 92	☐ SEP 98	☐ MAY 00
☐ JUL 90	☐ NOV 92	☐ OCT 98	
☐ SEP 90	☐ JAN 93	☐ HOL 98	
☐ OCT 90	☐ FEB 93	☐ JAN 99	
☐ NOV 90	☐ APR 93	☐ FEB 99	

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices:_____ _____

5172/01-00/2-C

If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Or send e-mail to:
OffTheTopRope @yahoo.com

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

SUPERCARD SEASON IS underway, and as I sit to write this installment, only two of the supercards have taken place. Don't worry—I'm just early with my column. I won a coin toss with myself. If I had gotten tails, I would have been forced to watch Uncensored. Instead, heads meant I had to torture myself with your snot-crusted letters. I think I'll stick to the e-mailed ones this month.

I guess you're stunned that I'd rather deal with your nonsensical writings than watch a pay-per-view. Well, the truth is, at least I know to expect your letters to be incoherent. They shouldn't make sense to me since I am a higher-quality being than you. But I am supposed to understand the nuances of WCW. Even someone with my exemplary beauty and brain power can't fully do that, however. I don't think a lot of people in WCW know what they're doing, either.

Oh well, Uncensored is creeping closer to my consciousness. If it comes closer, I'll kill it ... like the champion I am.

Dear Brandi,

Do you think it's a good idea to let the wrestlers be in charge of the federations? You have Triple-H in the WWF, and Kevin Nash in WCW. I think wrestlers should leave running the federations to the executives. At least they know what they're doing.

THOMAS THACKER
holmes919@yahoo.com

Dear Thomas,

A good portion of WCW's problems have something to do with the fact that some executives don't have a real good idea about how to handle the day-to-day operations of a wrestling federation. The problem with allowing wrestlers to assume roles of power is that they love to abuse the power they're given. But then, in the case of Triple-H and Kevin Nash, they are both using their positions to right some terrible wrongs that have occurred in the past. Triple-H is just making sure all of his fellow wrestlers who thought he was a glorified mid-carder get their just desserts. Kevin Nash is desperately trying to save WCW from total destruction. Personally, I think big Kev is trying to use a teaspoon to scoop water out of the Titanic, but then that's just my opinion, so you should take it as gospel.

Dear Brandi:

So, how far has the WWF sunk? They go from the gorgeous Sable to the hulky Chyna and Tori. Even Debra and Terri disappeared from the scene. The only bright spot is when The Godfather brings out his girls.

STAN LENKIEWICZ
s.lenkiewicz@westernworld.com

Dear Ho-lover, *er*, John,

Just because some of the fluffier chicks have disappeared doesn't mean you can't find something worth watching on *Raw*. I suggest trying to actually watch the matches instead of the ringside bimbos bouncing their wares in search of a thrill. It's time for you to look at women for what we are: your equals. Admit it, you're just jealous of these "hulky" women because they have washboard stomachs while you have one the size of a washer/dryer combo.

To Brandi,

Do you think that Raven returned to ECW just to make Tommy Dreamer's life a living hell. Also, what is WXO?

TIFFANY HOFFMAN
TIFF60901@webtv.net

To Tiffany,

Raven returned to ECW because Tommy Dreamer is still breathing.

So what if Triple-H is using his power as Vince's son-in-law to torture a few of his critics. He's just trying to make the WWF a more exciting promotion. I think he's doing a fine job, too.

Let's see? Raven returned to ECW to destroy Tommy Dreamer. Well, he's already stolen Francine, and the injuries inflicted by Raven make it hard for Dreamer to get out of bed in the morning. I'd say Dreamer is a beaten man.

Plus, he had to one-up Tommy in the battle over the babes by wooing Francine to his side. This battle is far from over, and I'm afraid it won't die until Dreamer's career does. Speaking of death, WXO is a Florida-based independent promotion that started strongly with regular TV tapings, but I haven't heard much about it since.

Dear Brandi:

I've been a great fan of Hulk Hogan for many years, but now I think that he deserves only retirement. He is capable of nothing in WCW. Hogan is nothing without help from other wrestlers, like Goldberg. Now he can't obtain a world title on his own. During the 1980s, he used to beat the "Macho Man" very easily, but now the opposite is true. Don't you think it's high time that Hogan retires with honor rather than risk being humiliated by each and every wrestler?

MANJEET REETOO
m.reetoo@intnet.mu

Dear Manjeet,

Hogan is the symbol of what is wrong with wrestling today. He has tasted greatness and thinks he still deserves a chance to taste it again and again. He's the only one who truly believes he's the biggest star in the world. Hogan uses his past glory to snow WCW executives into thinking he's still a hot commodity. Hogan probably pops in a tape of his WrestleMania III match against Andre the Giant at the Pontiac Silverdome in front of 93,000 screaming idiots and, like lemmings, the execs shoot him into main events because they think he's a sure thing for ratings. Sure, Hogan is cheered by the dozens and dozens of WCW fans, but I think it's more of a learned reaction from the first wave of "Hulkamania." I'm sure lab rats who have been trained all of their lives to run through a maze would sprint through the same maze years later hoping for the same gratifying snack they received at the end of the maze in previous years. But for today's fans, there is no tasty cheese at the end of the Hogan's ego-fests. All they get are empty feelings in their hearts that match the emptiness of WCW's arenas.

Another Hogan-Flair match. *Yippee!* When will WCW executives realize that this blowhard is passe and that Hogan is draining WCW of its life? They need to tell him one word he should have been told a long time ago: Retire!

Dear Brandi,

With the popularity ECW has been gaining over the last few months, do you see ECW being the number-two promotion over WCW?

JOE STANIORSKI
Bayside, NY

Dear Joe,

It is difficult to rank the promotions in professional wrestling today since it's not a matter of enumeration. It's more like the WWF at the top, with everyone else a distant competitor. I'm not so sure if ECW gets the top "non-WWF" ranking because of its growing popularity or because of WCW's free-fall. ECW's roster keeps getting depleted by injuries and guys just walking away for bigger money. I think the next year will be ECW's time to step up as a legitimate contender and possibly fill the role of chief competitor to the WWF. ECW has the raw talent, the innovative ideas, and the desire to make it, but I'm just wondering if it will make all the right decisions necessary to move up. I do hope that ECW can succeed if WCW fails. We need some kind of alternative to Vince's monopoly.

Letter of the month (taken verbatim from the actual letter to share my torture with you all):

HI BRANDI,

I'M A REAL FIEND FOR WWF. WHY DO THEY HAVE A WCW AND ECW I REALLY HATE DOES TWO. ALSO I'M A FIEND FOR THE ROCK TO EMAIL ME BACK.

JOSHUA SORRELLS
joshua1034@hotmail.com

P.S. R U BLACK OR WHITE.

Dear Winner,

R U human? You can't possibly share genetic traits with me. Your letter is a shining example of why animals leave the weakest of their litters to die. Either that, or it's an example of why our public school system is failing. □

KREW-CUTS

By Frank Krewda

AMERICA IS OBSESSED with nostalgia. It's actually a multi-million-dollar business. TV Land. Nick at Nite. ESPN Classic. Old NWA and WCW wrestling shows will soon be re-run on Turner South. I don't know if retro is so popular because people are afraid of the world in which we live, or if they simply get a good feeling inside when they're reminded of better times.

I have some very definite feelings about the state of wrestling today vs. wrestling of, say, 15 years ago, but they have nothing to do with warm and fuzzy memories of days gone by. This sport seems to have forgotten a lot of the basics that contributed to the popularity it now enjoys. I've dredged up some "outdated" concepts that were once standard practices in professional wrestling. It's too late to revert to some of them, but others I would love to see put into practice just one more time, if not for the good of the game, then maybe just for old times' sake.

Wrestling territories. Looking at the money professional wrestling generates these days, it's difficult to argue in favor of the fiefdom network that dominated the sport until the late-'80s. However, when **Vince McMahon** abolished the territorial system, he factored much of the romance out of professional wrestling.

For example, before **Jimmy Snuka** came to the WWF in the early-1980s, his great feuds with **Ric Flair** and **Rick Steamboat** could only be seen by fans in the Mid-Atlantic territory. The rest of the world relied on magazines like *PWI* to follow his career. Therefore, when he came to the WWF to feud with **Bob Backlund**, Snuka was largely an unknown quantity. He was a mystery man. And the fans who had only seen photos of him in magazines were blown away by his live performances.

Learning that a top star from another territory was coming to a nearby arena was like getting an unexpected Christmas present. In fact, one of the highlights of attending a live event was hearing who would appear on *next month's* card.

Nowadays, fans know where a wrestler is headed weeks before he gets there and know just what to expect when he arrives.

What fun is that?

Monthly title defenses. Before the advent of pay-per-view or the Monday night ratings war, world title matches happened only once a month at your local venue after weeks of buildup on a local TV station. Because professional wrestling was an arena-driven business, there was no pressure on promoters to have their champions defend their titles every week on national TV.

Championships were treated with respect—as were their owners. To emphasize how special world titles were, promoters often kept their champions off TV, limiting them to the occasional in-ring interview. They didn't want to "give their champ away."

Today, major titles change hands eight, nine, 10 times a year and sometimes twice in one night. Some belts have even been thrown in the trash.

If becoming a champion means nothing, why bother wrestling?

Wrestlers who look like wrestlers. Feather boas and bleached blonds, which have been a part of the show since the 1940s, don't bother me. I'm talking about wrestlers like **Jeff Hardy**, who wear denim overalls and Skechers in the ring. Or **The Godfather**, who wrestles in flamboyant suits with pointy leather shoes and matching top hat. **Konnan** oozes around the ring with a pair of baggy jeans hanging around his hips. Isn't he slow enough already?

There was nothing fashionable about **Bruno Sammartino** or **Andre the Giant**. They became popular because

It was so much easier for Frank Krewda to cheer for his favorite wrestler, Billy Graham (using a bearhug on Bob Backlund), back in 1978 because he knew what Graham stood for. Societal changes have made it hard to distinguish between "good guys" and "bad guys."

When was the last time you saw a scene like this one—fans mobbing a star such as Andre the Giant in search of autographs? For youngsters, nothing comes close to the thrill of seeing a favorite wrestler up close—not even a live chat on the Internet.

of their winning percentage, not their clothes. Incidentally, most of today's best wrestlers—**Rob Van Dam, The Rock, Bill Goldberg**—still wear singlets and/or tights.

I don't see anything wrong with breaking the mold here and there, but once in a while I'd like to see a wrestler dress for performance, not just to look cool.

Good vs. evil. In society, and in wrestling, the line between good and bad and right and wrong has been blurred.

For example, The Godfather portrays a pimp, long considered one of society's most vile members, yet he remains one of wrestling's most popular characters. Ric Flair grabs a microphone and tells the fans in Greensboro, North Carolina, that he could score with each and every one of their mothers and sisters. They respond by chanting, "Flair is God!" Once upon a time, foul-mouthed rebels like **Steve Austin** were booed out of buildings all over America, while accomplished athletes like **Kurt Angle** became instant heroes.

I remember when **"Superstar" Billy Graham** feuded with Backlund over the WWF World title. Those who appreciated humility and dedication cheered for Backlund—the "good guy"—while they booed the vain, arrogant Graham—the "bad guy." Sounds like a too simplistic a formula for today's fans to swallow, but I think crowd reaction would be much more intense if the wrestlers were still promoted this way. If wrestling is supposed to mirror society and give the people what they want, I defy Vince and **Bill Busch** to show me a society in which pimps and sex addicts are revered.

Referees who uphold the rules. Hardcore wrestling is a misnomer. Wrestling has nothing to do with that hardcore stuff, which should actually be called "organized chaos." Even hardcore pioneer **Shane Douglas** admitted the need for more control in the ring and more respect for the referee.

"I don't think a great match needs to be exclusive of the rules," Douglas said. "If the referee's word is meaningless, why even send him out there? Just put two guys out there to beat the hell out of each other and the last one standing wins."

Douglas is right. When was the last time you saw a countout enforced? It takes **The Dudley Boyz** at least 60 seconds to fetch a table from underneath the ring and set it up at ringside. More than half of ECW's main events involve the use of chairs and/or brawling in the stands. Hell, **Jeff Jarrett** resurrected his career when he started knocking out his opponents with guitars—and getting away with it! And how many tag team matches have we seen disintegrate into all-out brawls in which no one is sure who the legal contestants are?

I miss the days when wrestling matches had a beginning and an end—the days when referees consistently enforced the countout rule, banned all foreign objects and weapons, and above all, disqualified any wrestler who benefitted from outside interference, no matter how minimal.

Fan participation. When I was a child, fans were allowed at ringside to get photographs or autographs of their favorite wrestlers during introductions. Today, if you want a wrestler's autograph, you can: A) Be lucky enough to bump into him in an airport and hope he's in a signing mood, or B) Wait in line for hours at a "personal appearance."

For as fan-friendly as wrestling now claims to be, participating in live chats on the Internet and standing in line at a book signing does not compete with the thrill of standing by the ring as your hero actually signs your program and makes eye contact with you. There was a rush that came from seeing yourself on TV with the rest of the throng as you crowded the ring for an autograph. Just try getting *near* the ring at *Nitro* or *Raw*.

Like many fans who've watched professional wrestling for any length of time, I have a yearning for the good old days, although I admit the good old days weren't nearly as profitable as pro wrestling is today. The sport has adapted and evolved for the better, but something constructive can be extracted from the extinct ideas I've outlined above.

They say that those who ignore history are destined to repeat it. In this case, I don't think it would be such a bad thing. □

SUPERCARDS 2000

EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE OF WRESTLING'S SENSATIONAL SPRING SEASON!

WrestleMania 2000 ... Uncensored 2000 ... ECW's Living Dangerously. Once again, fans were treated to a memorable spring season that had a tremendous impact on the year ahead

ON TODAY'S NONSTOP wrestling schedule of *Raw* and *Nitro* on Mondays, *Thunder* on Wednesdays, *Smackdown* on Thursdays, *Heat* on Sundays, and *ECW On TNN* on Fridays, it seems as if every week brings a wrestling event of major importance. Whether The Rock is laying the smack down on Triple-H, or Sid Vicious is going after Hulk Hogan, or Francine is letting Tommy Dreamer know their relationship is history, the weekly cablecasts have become must-see TV for wrestling fans.

One thing hasn't changed: If you want to keep up with what's going on, you're going to have to see the pay-per-views.

Of course, that could get expensive. The WWF and WCW charge about $29.95 for their monthly PPVs, with the exception of WrestleMania which costs $34.95. ECW charges $21.95, a relative bargain, for its bimonthly offerings. Want to buy them all? Well, you'll have to dig deep into your wallet. The WWF and WCW both held 12 pay-per-views in North America in 1999. ECW checked in with six. Even the most serious wrestling fan has a hard time figuring out which cards were the most important.

Nonetheless, there's something special about wrestling's spring season, which this year began in mid-March and continued into early-April. The winter is over. Summer is coming. Football season is over. Pro basketball and pro hockey haven't yet started their playoffs. Major League Baseball is in spring training. Wrestling owns a larger portion of the spotlight than ever before.

There is, of course, one PPV that dominates the wrestling calendar: WrestleMania. Now, with WWF having commandeered a larger portion than ever of the wrestling viewership, WrestleMania takes on added importance, and hundreds of thousands of viewers tuned in to see what The Rock was cooking ... and what Vince McMahon was cooking up.

WrestleMania 2000 was the centerpiece. WCW and ECW, however, offered tantalizing appetizers:

—WCW's Uncensored featured another battle in the long rivalry between Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan, Sting's comeback, and Sid Vicious' defense of his World title.

—ECW's Living Dangerously, though lacking star power, featured a battle for the vacant TV title, and yet another death-defying (although just slightly) maneuver by New Jack, the Evel Knievel of wrestling.

The following is an examination of all three cards and their impact on today's wrestling scene. We've cut through the promotional hype and given you the insight that puts these cards into historical perspective. It's a special report you'll want to save for future reference.

***WCW UNCENSORED** was held on March 19 at American Airlines Arena in Miami, Florida. Eleven matches were aired lived on pay-per-view at a cost of $29.95 on most cable and satellite systems. Tony Schiavone provided the play-by-play, with Mike Tenay and Mark Madden providing commentary. Gene Okerlund conducted interview segments. A replay was shown later that night and during the next week on most cable systems.*

Five years after WCW first introduced Uncensored to the paying public, the federation's most maligned and most controversial pay-per-view event is still alive. Going strong? Well, that's a matter of opinion, especially considering the current downtrodden state of WCW, but it's still a regular part of the yearly pay-per-view calendar.

So, you might be interested in some Uncensored trivial pursuit before we proceed with our review of this year's version. Like Uncensored 2000, Hulk Hogan, Dustin Rhodes, Ric Flair, Sting, and Harlem Heat all wrestled on the first Uncensored pay-per-view, held in Tupelo, Mississippi, on March 19, 1995. Steve Austin won a dark match, and Big Van Vader lost to Hogan in a strap match on that first Uncensored. Since then, both men have gone on to bigger and better things, Austin in the WWF, and Vader in All-Japan.

Similarities between Uncensored '95 and Uncensored '00? Well, besides Hogan and Flair both getting involved in the main event strap matches of both cards, there really aren't any. For that, WCW should breathe a sigh of relief, because Uncensored '95 was a horrible event, one of the worst pay-per-views in WCW history. Uncensored '00 was spectacular compared to Uncensored '95, and even okay by current WCW standards.

Unfortunately, however, WCW's warts were made very obvious at this year's Uncensored. Just two months earlier, the WWF had packed American Airlines Arena in Miami for *Raw Is War*. For Uncensored in the same building, the paid crowd was about 3,000. In 1998, the pay-per-view buy rate for Uncensored was a so-so 0.89. This year, the buy rate was about 0.16, the lowest in WCW history. By no means did Uncensored stop WCW's slide.

In retrospect, that wasn't tremendously surprising. The main event of Uncensored 2000 was the same as the main event of Uncensored '99: Hogan vs. Flair. And most of you were probably sick of that feud a year ago. (Keep in mind that they wrestled each other in a retirement match six years ago!) Well, you got another chapter at this year's Uncensored.

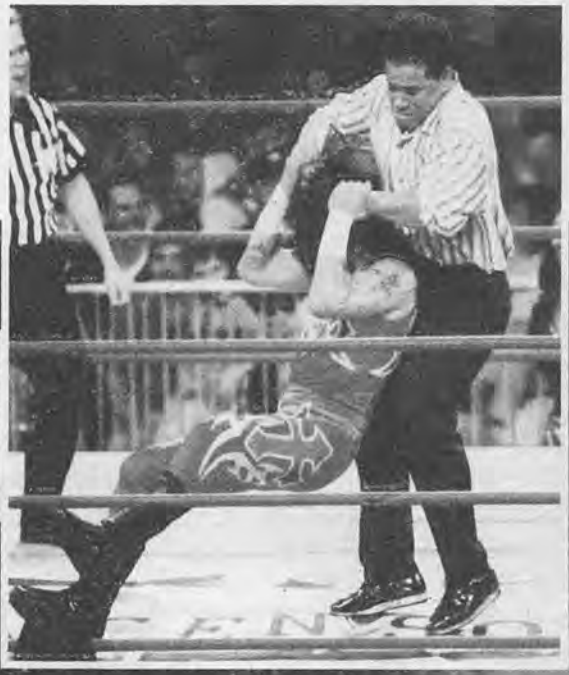
Oh well. So much for building up new rivalries you can place in the main event.

On the other hand, there were some very exciting matches at Uncensored '00, as well as some truly memorable moments. There were times that Uncensored resembled an ECW production, such as when:

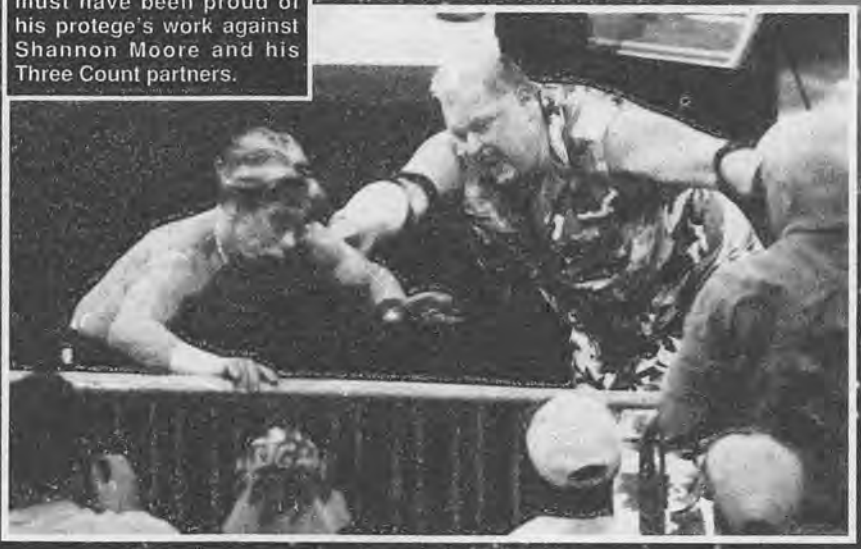
—The Wall choke-slammed Bam Bam Bigelow through a ringside table, sending computer monitors crashing and sparks flying.

—The Wall choke-slammed Crow-

Photos by Duane Long



WCW should have saved The Artist's defense of his cruiserweight title against Psicosis until mid-card. That way, fans wouldn't have worried about when to head to the fridge to grab a soda. Not to say they did worry, though.



Brian Knobs regained the hardcore title by not defeating just one hardcore champion, but by defeating three of them! Fit Finlay must have been proud of his protege's work against Shannon Moore and his Three Count partners.

bar off the top of a 15-foot scaffold and through a stage.

—Brian Knobs came off the top rope and splashed Shannon Moore with a garbage can.

—Dustin Rhodes and Terry Funk beat the heck out of each other with a cowbell.

—Scott Steiner smashed a guitar over Hulk Hogan's head.

—And, in a moment that was just like ECW, Vampiro and Fit Finlay battled onto the arena concourse, where the lighting was so dim that TV viewers had a hard time figuring out what was going on. In other words, WCW's usually high production values slipped to ECW TV levels for a few minutes.

All in all, Uncensored was an interesting show. It definitely had its moments. The intensity of the wrestlers was high. The crowd, on the other hand, didn't seem too into being there. Of course, that tends to happen when the majority of the audience is only there because they won their tickets on a radio station or through some other giveaway.

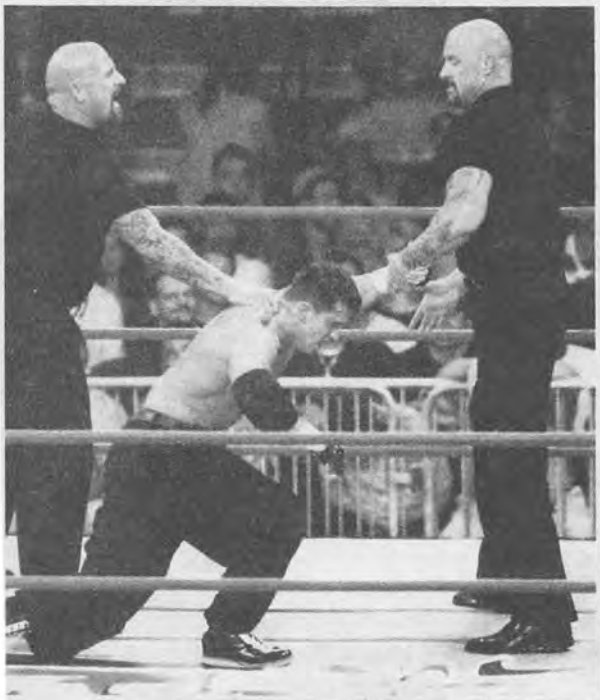
Chris Candido made his first appearance in WCW, although he didn't wrestle. The former ECW and WWF star provided color commentary during the opening match between The Artist and Psicosis and declared that he had come to WCW to win the cruiserweight title.

He also said he didn't have a valet or a manager.

Too bad. Does that mean no Tammy Lynn Sytch?

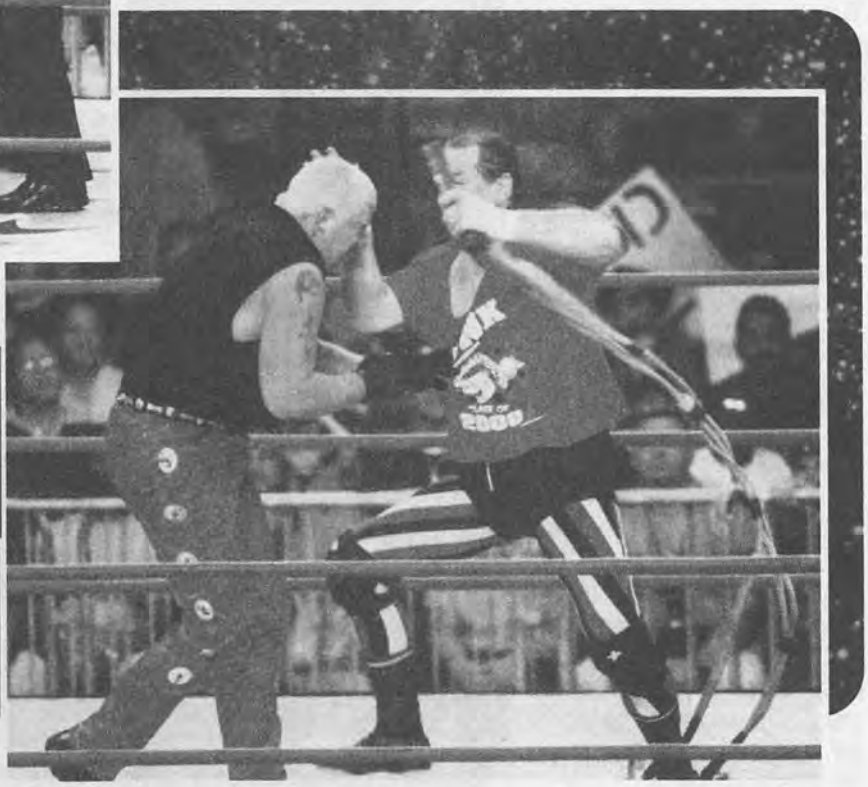
Norman Smiley and The Demon made short work of Lane and Rave in a match that was interesting only

Johnny the Bull might be known for his toughness among his *goombahs*, but Ron and Don Harris easily manhandled him on their way to their second WCW World tag team title. The Mamalukes provided little trouble for the NWO twins.



UNCENSORED: COMPLETE RESULTS

Cruiserweight champion The Artist pinned Psicosis at 7:20 ... Norman Smiley & The Demon defeated Lane & Rave at 3:42 ... Bam Bam Bigelow beat The Wall by disqualification at 3:35 ... Brian Knobs beat hardcore champions Three Count to win the title at 5:45 ... Kidman & Booker T beat Harlem Heat when Kidman pinned Big T at 6:56 ... Vampiro pinned Fit Finlay in a falls-count-anywhere match at 8:45 ... The Harris brothers beat World tag team champions The Mamalukes to win the title at 8:45 ... Dustin Rhodes pinned Terry Funk in a bullrope match at 8:59 ... Sting pinned Lex Luger in a lumberjack match at 7:00 ... World champion Sid Vicious pinned Jeff Jarrett at 7:35 ... Hulk Hogan beat Ric Flair in a strap match at 14:59.



Rhodes vs. Funk is a timeless feud, even when talking about Dustin, and not Dusty, vs. Terry. Their bullrope match provided the listless crowd with some much-needed entertainment on a so-so card.

because of the verbal back-and-forth between Miss Hancock and Rave, and because of Smiley's effervescent personality.

Then came Bigelow vs. The Wall in a match that would have fit in perfectly on Living Dangerously. Of course, an ECW referee probably wouldn't have disqualified The Wall for choke-slamming Bigelow through a table, but this is, of course, WCW and not ECW. Then Crowbar and David Flair attacked Wall, and the real show began. Wall's choke-slam of Crowbar was one of the most horrifying incidents ever seen in WCW and resulted in both men suffering serious injuries. Both had concussions. Crowbar cracked several ribs. The Wall separated his shoulder.

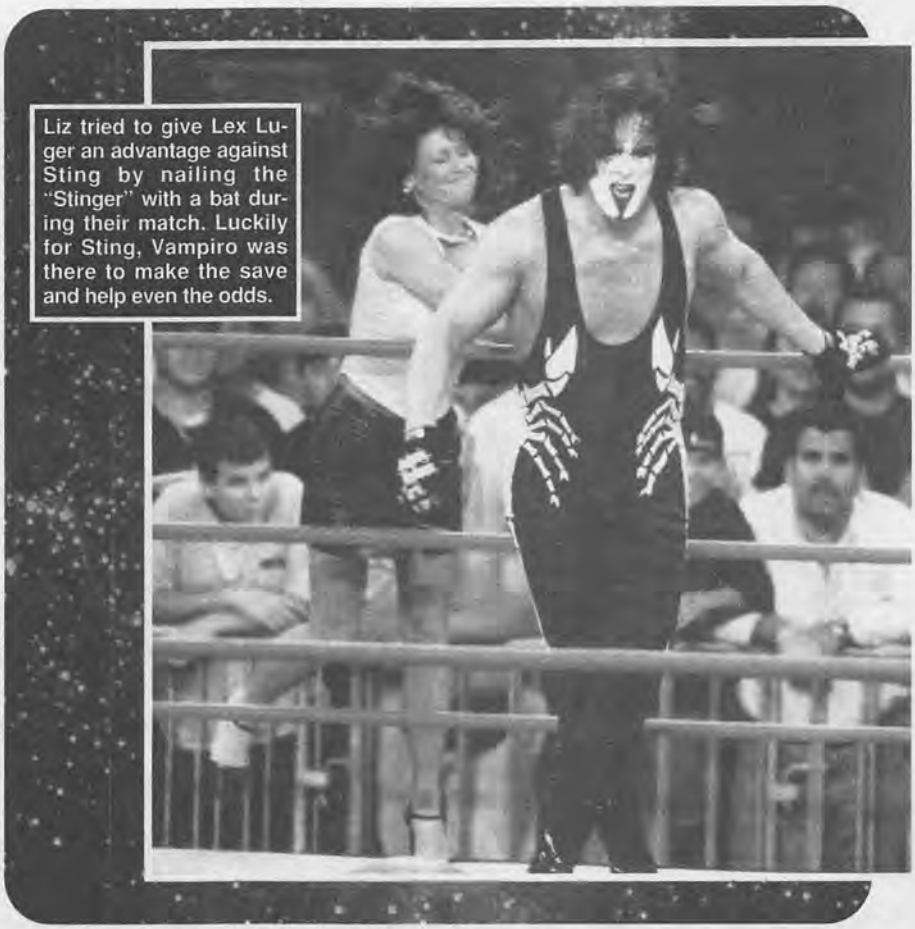
Surprisingly, Brian Knobs vs. Three Count—Evan Karagias, Shane Helms, and Shannon Moore—for the WCW hardcore title was an entertaining match. By the time the match was over, the ring was littered with garbage cans, a ladder, brooms, and other weapons, most courtesy of Knobs. Knobs pinned Helms at 3:00, power-bombed Karagias for the pin at 4:15, and took care of Moore a minute and a half later.

After Kidman and Booker beat The New Harlem Heat, Vampiro locked up with Fit Finlay in a falls-count-anywhere match worthy of the name Uncensored. When Vampiro and Finlay left the ring with about four minutes gone in the match, they never returned. Instead, they brawled through the crowd, into the concourse, and out of the building. At one point, it looked as if Finlay was trying to throw Vampiro off a balcony far above the streets of downtown Miami, but Vampiro fortunately escaped. Back inside the concourse, Vampiro bodyslammed Finlay for the pin in a performance so impressive that Finlay walked away with a newfound respect for the tattooed punker.

"I lit a fire under you," Finlay told Vampiro. "Keep the fire lit."

Vampiro kept the fire lit, all right ... but at that point in the card, we had no idea exactly what was on his mind.

The next match was a bad re-



Liz tried to give Lex Luger an advantage against Sting by nailing the "Stinger" with a bat during their match. Luckily for Sting, Vampiro was there to make the save and help even the odds.

THE BEST AND WORST OF UNCENSORED

BEST MATCH: Vampiro vs. Fit Finlay

WORST MATCH: Hulk Hogan vs. Ric Flair

BEST RING ENTRANCE: Jeff Jarrett coming to the ring with his three beautiful NWO women and telling the fans, "You want to see some skin tonight? ... After I pin Sid one-two-three, I'll climb up into the ring, and we've got a show to put on." Meaning the three lovelies would disrobe. Jarrett, of course, lost

BEST RING ATTIRE: Torrie Wilson's very short, very low-cut green dress with the criss-cross straps and white heels

WORST RING ATTIRE: Dustin Rhodes' ridiculous red leather pants with the cutoff T-shirt and red bandana. Has a man shy of The Village People ever looked more ridiculous in leather pants?

BEST MOMENT: The Wall choke-slams Crowbar from a 15-foot-high scaffold

WORST MOMENT: Dustin Rhodes chasing a chicken mascot around the ring prior to his match against Terry Funk, then getting chicken-punched by Funk. And five minutes later, the chicken interfered in the match

BEST PERFORMANCE: Vampiro, who overcame a lot to win his falls-count-anywhere match against Fit Finlay

WORST PERFORMANCE: Ric Flair, who looked like a man who should've retired a year ago

FUNNIEST LINE: Commentator Mark Madden, when Dustin Rhodes attacked the chicken with a cowbell: "That's what the chicken gets for being cocky."

In a match filled with its share of outside interference, Sid Vicious was able to retain his WCW World heavyweight title against Jeff Jarrett. Vicious has gone from career underachiever to "Mr. Dependable" pretty quickly.

Ten years ago, wrestling fans would have gone bananas to see an Indian strap match between Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan. In 2000, however, their battle was nothing more than a display of two veterans wrestling past their prime.

minder of how far the WCW tag team division has fallen. Save for a one-day reign by the Harrises, The Mamalukes—Big Vito and Johnny the Bull—had held the World tag title since January 19, which is an eternity by WCW title standards these days. Fans, however, have figured out that there isn't a truly super team in the entire division, so a tag team title match isn't greeted with even a modicum of anticipation. No wonder, then, that this match drew more hos (no, not the Godfather's kind) and hums then cheers, and that the Harris brothers' victory over The Mamalukes for the tag belts hardly seemed like a momentous occasion. The crowd barely reacted.

Terry Funk against Dustin Rhodes in a bullrope match heightened the level of excitement. Funk used to battle with Dustin's father, the great Dusty Rhodes, all the time, and the feud has crossed generations—at least on the Rhodes side. Funk doesn't have a son to fight his battles for him, so at the grand old age of 55, he's showing no fear in going after the kids.

"I think I see a chicken in the ring," Funk said as he stood at the top of the entrance ramp and viewed Dustin from a distance. "The only difference between you and your old man is that your old man is fatter than you are."

No argument there. Dustin may not be as tough his father used to be, but he knows how to handle himself in the ring. In a match that saw both men savagely use a cowbell to punish each other, Rhodes brutalized Funk with the weapon and used a piledriver to win the match.

Sting's return from a broken arm, suffered at the hands of a baseball bat-wielding Elizabeth, was a heroic performance, to say the least. He battled Lex Luger in a lumberjack match that turned a bit odd with about four minutes expired, when all the lumberjacks—except for Vampiro—fought their way back to the locker room area and never reappeared. Well, Vampiro didn't stick around for nothing. When Luger captured Sting in a torture rack, Vampiro vaulted into the ring and used a baseball bat to bash Luger across the back. Sting scored with his deathdrop for the pin, then embraced Vampiro in the middle of the ring.

Finally, an ally for Sting.

Then things turned weird. Hogan vs. Flair was supposed to be the 10th match on the card. WCW World champion Sid Vicious vs. Jeff Jarrett was supposed to be the last match on the card. For some reason, the order of matches was reversed, and Vicious was informed at the last minute that his match was next.

He didn't seem bothered by the sudden change. Vicious stormed the ring and went after his hated rival

before the opening bell, weakening him with punches, kicks, and a double-axhandle off the broadcasters' table. Unfortunately, like so many other matches on the Uncensored card, this one was marred by outside interference.

This wasn't a no-disqualification match, but when Vicious and Jarrett battled into the crowd for more than a minute, the referee didn't disqualify or count out either man. With a little more than two minutes gone, Heavy D and Big Ron attacked Sid. With seven minutes gone, Hulk Hogan stormed the ring, attacked Jarrett, and set up Sid for the pin and the victory.

What, the pay-per-view announcers wondered out loud, was Hogan doing? The "Hulkster" has been accused of hogging the WCW spotlight, and this seemed to be his most heinous act of spotlight-grabbing yet. Scott Steiner probably felt the same way. "Big Poppa Pump" was sitting in a black limousine for most of the card, but he stormed the ring, attacked the referee, and bashed a guitar over Hogan's head. The Harris brothers continued their assault on Hogan, who laid motionless in the ring as Flair came out and joined in.

More strange things happened. There were no ring introductions for Hogan vs. Flair. Hogan wasn't even allowed time to recover. As Flair kicked and punched Hogan, the referee called for the opening bell.

Suffice to say that he shouldn't have been in such a hurry. Hogan vs. Flair was a dud, one of the worst pay-per-view main events ever. Yes, both men battled hard. Yes, both men bled profusely. But for the most part, Hogan and Flair looked like what they are: plodding veterans whose careers should have wound down a long time ago.

So Flair bled. And Hogan bled. And Flair covered Hogan for a pin that was counted by the referee, even though this was a strap match in which the only way to win was by dragging your opponent to all four turnbuckles in succession. Then Hogan covered Flair and the referee made the three-count with 14 minutes 25 seconds gone. The bell rang. The match was over. Hogan slapped the fourth turnbuckle, but it didn't seem to matter.

Hogan and Jimmy Hart celebrated. The crowd turned and walked away. Their final verdict: Uncensored equaled uninspired. □

THE TOP FIVE MINUTES OF UNCENSORED 2000

1. The Wall and Crowbar: The Wall had just been disqualified for choke-slamming Bam Bam Bigelow through a table when Crowbar and David Flair sense it is their time and attack. Crowbar and The Wall battle to the top of a 15-foot-high scaffold, and The Wall grabs Crowbar by the neck and choke-slams him off the scaffold. Crowbar careens through the air and crashes through a stage, sending splinters flying and knocking Crowbar out of action for the foreseeable future.

2. Vampiro vs. Fit Finlay (6:30 to 7:30): While battling in a men's room of American Airlines Arena, Vampiro climbs to the top of a bathroom stall and leaps, but Finlay smashes a steel trash can against Vampiro's shoulder. They battle back into the concourse, with fans milling all about, and onto a balcony, where Finlay lifts Vampiro as if he was trying to throw him off the balcony and down onto the Miami streets below. Vampiro escapes, and the brawl continues in the concourse, where Finlay back bodydrops Vampiro onto the hard floor. Finlay sends Vampiro into a concrete post.

Crowbar fights off the inevitable

3. Terry Funk vs. Dustin Rhodes (7:51 to 8:51): Funk, holding the ring microphone in one hand and a cowbell in the other, drives Rhodes's head into the cowbell and orders him to say, "I quit." Rhodes, knowing it wasn't an "I Quit" match, finally says, "I quit," and Funk breaks the hold. The referee tells Funk it wasn't an "I Quit" match. Funk complains, and Rhodes twice hits Funk on the side of the head with the cowbell. Rhodes punishes Funk with the cowbell, then piledrives him onto the cowbell before scoring the pin.

4. Sting vs. Lex Luger (6:00 to 7:00): Sting clotheslines Luger in the corner, but Elizabeth grabs a baseball bat and bashes Sting across the shoulders. With Luger and Sting both down, Vampiro grabs the bat from Elizabeth. Jimmy Hart strikes Elizabeth with a belt. Luger covers Sting for a two-count, and Sting raises his shoulder just in time. Luger lifts Sting into a torture rack, but Vampiro interferes and bashes Luger across the back with the bat. Sting nails a Scorpion deathdrop, then covers Luger for the pin.

5. Sid Vicious vs. Jeff Jarrett (6:35 to 7:35): Jarrett knocks out Vicious with his guitar, then takes his time before trying to pin Sid. With referee Nick Patrick knocked out, Mark Johnson, Jarrett's ref, rushes to the ring and begins to count the pin. Hulk Hogan interferes and pulls Johnson out of the ring. Hogan beats up Johnson, then Jarrett. Hogan scores a big foot to Jarrett's face, then takes out the Harris brothers. Hogan legdrops Jarrett and slides Vicious on top of Jarrett for the pin.

***WWF WRESTLEMANIA 2000** was held on April 2 at Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, California. Nine matches were aired live on pay-per-view at a cost of $34.95, with Jim Ross doing the play-by-play and Jerry Lawler providing color commentary. Replays were shown later that night and over the following days on various cable and satellite systems.*

In this era in which titles change hands every week, it takes more than the promise of a world heavyweight championship match to make a pay-per-view event worth buying. It takes the promise of suspense, revenge, violence, some humor, and maybe even a little exposed flesh, too. We're a long way removed from WrestleMania III, when Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant battled for the WWF World title and it seemed as if the future of the wrestling universe hung in the balance. These days, wrestling is exactly what promoters say it is: sports entertainment.

No surprise, then, that at WrestleMania 2000, we had a little bit of sports mixed in with our entertainment, entertainment that consisted of daredevil feats from the tops of ladders, big, furious men bashing each other over the heads with baking pans and TV monitors, voluptuous women tearing each other's clothing off (or what little clothing they were wearing), septuagenarians making out with supposed former porn stars, and the dysfunctional family feud to end all dysfunctional family feuds.

Oh, yes, and we had some title changes. Would you believe ... 14 of them?

Based on the pay-per-view price of $34.95, that's $2.49 apiece.

Or one title change for every 1,412 people in the building; attendance was a sellout 19,776.

What WrestleMania 2000 didn't have was a Match of the Year candidate (although some might make a case for the triangle ladder match for the World tag team title and Triple-H vs. Mick Foley vs. The Rock vs. Big Show in the fatal four-way elimination match for the World title) or a single performance that could truly be deemed memorable.

But that really didn't matter, because this WrestleMania was exactly what it was billed to be: an event.

The event started on the Friday before WrestleMania with WWF Axxess at the Anaheim Convention Center, kicking off three days in which fans had the opportunity to interact with the WWF's top stars. There were autograph signings by the likes of The Rock, Big Show, Val Venis, Shawn Michaels, Steve Austin, Chyna, Triple-H, and others; opportunities for fans to step into a broadcast booth and call one of the top five matches in WWF history; and something called The Peepshow, in which the federation's sexiest celebrities signed autographs and—*ahem*—interacted with fans.

Never let it be said that the WWF has ever missed a promotional opportunity. It covered all the bases this weekend. Fans who didn't have the opportunity to attend Axxess had another unique opportunity: *WrestleMania All Day Long*. For $49.95 (or $54.95, depending on your cable system), fans were treated to highlights from previous WrestleManias, interviews, and analysis. By bell time (around 8 p.m. Eastern), day-long watchers must have felt as if it was Super Bowl Sunday.

Photos by Frank Vitucci

Once Big Show and Mick Foley were eliminated from the main event, The Rock had Triple-H all to himself (above). But Vince McMahon's interference allowed Triple-H and wife, Stephanie, to celebrate a shocking win (right).

RATING THE WRESTLEMANIA MATCHES

1. Edge & Christian vs. The Dudley Boyz vs. The Hardy Boyz (Edge & Christian retrieve the belts at 22:35 to win the WWF World tag team title).

2. Triple-H vs. Big Show vs. The Rock vs. Mick Foley (Triple-H pins The Rock at 36:24 to retain the World heavyweight title).

3. Kurt Angle vs. Chris Benoit vs. Chris Jericho (Benoit pins Jericho for the Intercontinental title at 7:55; Jericho pins Benoit for the European title at 13:49).

4. Chyna, Scotty Too Hotty, & Grandmaster Sexay vs. Eddy Guerrero, Dean Malenko, & Perry Saturn (Chyna pins Guerrero at 9:38).

5. 13-man hardcore battle royal (Hardcore Holly wins by being the last champion after 15 minutes).

6. Test & Albert (with Trish Stratus) vs. Al Snow & Steve Blackman (Albert pins Blackman at 7:02).

7. X-Pac & Road Dogg (with Tori) vs. Rikishi Phatu & Kane (with Paul Bearer) (Kane pins X-Pac at 4:12).

8. Big Bossman & Bull Buchanan vs. The Godfather & D-Lo Brown (Buchanan pins Brown at 9:04)

9. Terri (with Fabulous Moolah) vs. Kat (with Mae Young) (Terri pins Kat at 2:24).

And if that's how they felt, that's exactly how the WWF wanted them to feel.

The WWF bills WrestleMania as the biggest event in sports entertainment, a title for which it has little opposition. No other sport dares to bill itself as sports entertainment (although that's exactly what Major League Baseball, the NBA, the NHL, and the NFL have become, with their emphasis on sideshow acts and what publicists call "the total fan experience"), and since WCW is lagging far behind in the sports entertainment derby, that leaves WrestleMania as, indeed, the biggest event on the sports entertainment calendar.

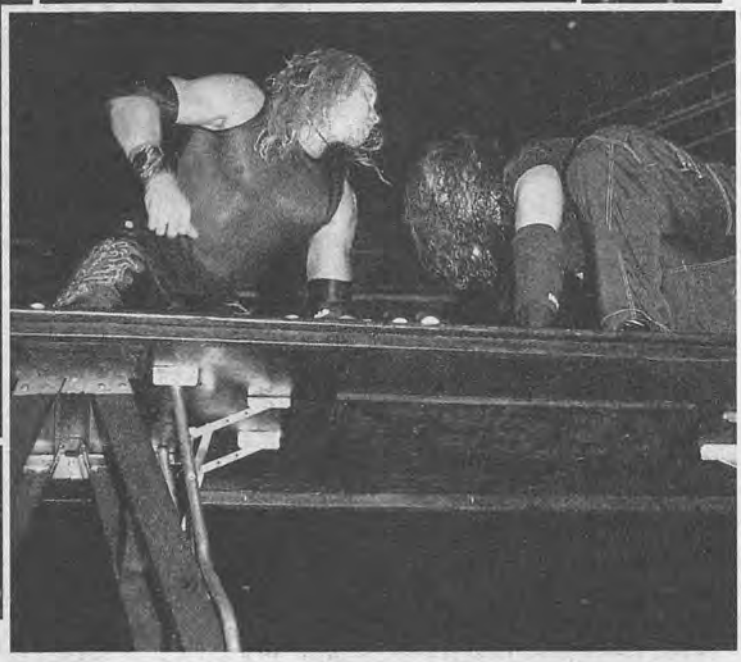
If WrestleMania is the granddaddy of them all, then the 16th edition did nothing to spoil the family tradition.

Did we say family?

Ah, family values. Thy name is not the WWF! At a time when more and more parents are deciding whether they want their younger family members to view the WWF's decidedly adult-oriented brand of entertainment, the McMahon family offered a new take on family: The family that fights together just might be able to stay together.

Let's face it: You tuned in to WrestleMania to watch the fatal four-way elimination match, but you also couldn't wait to see whether Vince, Shane, Linda, and Stephanie McMahon could peacefully coexist at four different corners of the

D-Von and Buh Buh Ray Dudley (left, power-bombing Matt Hardy through a table) were savage in the tag team title match, but Matt Hardy and Christian (along with Edge) fought atop the makeshift scaffold at the match's conclusion (below).



ring, no less at four different sides of the dinner table. You tuned in for a family drama.

Well, let's put it this way: The McMahons are not the Waltons. They're more like the Mansons.

That's why when we say that it's no longer world titles that grab the public's attention and get them to plunk down all that money for PPVs and tickets to arena cards, we can point to what happened in the main event of WrestleMania 2000 as a prime example of how we're right.

As proof, we'll ask you the following questions. Call it our "What WrestleMania Means To Me" quiz.

1. Did you cheer Mick Foley after he was eliminated, even though he hit The Rock in the head with the metal steps?

2. Were you pleased out of your mind when Foley stormed back to the ring after getting eliminated and slugged Triple-H with a two-by-four wrapped in barbed wire?

3. Were you absolutely fascinated when Shane McMahon hit his father over the head with a chair and a TV monitor?

4. Were you absolutely distraught when Vince turned against The Rock, enabling Triple-H to pin The Rock and retain the WWF World heavyweight title?

5. Was, for you, the most fascinating aspect of the show the sudden reunion of Vince, Shane, and Stephanie McMahon, along with the realization that all of us, along with The Rock, had been rooked?

6. And is The Rock taking out Vince and Shane and then Rockbottoming Stephanie your lasting memory of WrestleMania 2000 ... kind of like Hulk Hogan celebrating another World title victory used to be your lasting memory of past WrestleManias?

We're pretty certain—because we're in touch with how the wrestling fan thinks, of course—that it was the family drama, not the prospect of a World heavyweight title match, that had you tuning in to WrestleMania in the first place. If that's the case—and we know it is—you went to bed happy.

Sure, it's an amazing thing, bu in today's wrestling universe, a mar can lose a match for the WWF World title and still be the hero o the most important PPV of the year.

D-Lo Brown and The Godfather didn't strengthen their pimp hand while trying to impress Ice-T. The team was throttled by WrestleMania veteran Big Bossman (left) and WrestleMania rookie Bull Buchanan (above).

Taka Michinoku and Thrasher were two of the participants in the 15-minute, 13-man hardcore battle royal. Thrasher, via his pin of Joey Abs, was the hardcore champ for a whole 22 seconds that night.

Besides, by the time the main event rolled around, you had probably forgotten exactly who sang the national anthem (it was ring announcer Lillian Garcia, who sounded awfully good to us), how many hos accompanied The Godfather to the ring (six), who that rapper was who never stopped rapping about The Godfather (it was Ice-T), and exactly what happened to baseball legend Pete Rose (for the third straight year, he was assaulted by Kane; for the first time, he was given the stink face by Rikishi Phatu).

Because, let's face it, championships have been devalued pretty drastically these days.

For example, Kurt Angle lost his Intercontinental title to Chris Benoit and his European title to Chris Jericho even though he never got pinned in their two-fall triple threat match. Benoit pinned Jericho for the I-C belt, but Y2J used a springboard moonsault to come back and pin Benoit for the European title. Angle complained loudly to closed ears, because

Despite some loose ring attire, Chyna takes out WWF light heavyweight champion Dean Malenko with a stiff clothesline. The Chyna/Too Cool partnership was a winning combination against The Radicals at WrestleMania.

THE TOP FIVE MINUTES OF WRESTLEMANIA 2000

1. The Rock vs. Big Show vs. Triple-H vs. Mick Foley (aftermath). Vince and Stephanie McMahon, having deceived The Rock and the fans, hug in the middle of the ring after Triple-H's victory. Fans throw trash into the ring, and Vince is soaked with soda. The Rock gets up, looks around, and hits both Vince and Shane with Rock bottoms. Then it's Stephanie's turn. She slaps The Rock, who Rock-bottoms her. Stephanie is still lying on the mat when The Rock finishes her off with a people's elbow.

2. The Rock vs. Big Show vs. Triple-H vs. Mick Foley (35:25 to 36:24). The Rock and Triple-H are the only men remaining in the match. Vince McMahon, who had been taken back to the locker room area while bleeding from his forehead, returns and confronts Shane McMahon. Vince takes out Shane, grabs a chair, makes as if he's going to hit Triple-H, but instead slugs The Rock. Triple-H covers The Rock, but The Rock kicks out at two—to Vince's amazement. Vince again grabs the chair and smacks The Rock across the face. Triple-H covers The Rock for the pin and retains the World title.

3. Dudleys vs. Hardys vs. Edge & Christian (19:30 to 20:30). Buh Buh Ray Dudley goes backstage and retrieves a 20-foot ladder. Then he grabs a table from under the ring and sets it up on the entranceway, near the ladder. Buh Buh places Jeff Hardy on the table, but Christian attacks Buh Buh. Jeff Hardy nails Christian, then places Buh Buh face-up on the table. Jeff climbs to the top of the ladder, stops, looks down, appears to think twice about what he's about to do, then executes a swanton bomb that sends both him and Buh Buh crashing through the table and to the concrete floor.

4. Kurt Angle vs. Chris Jericho vs. Chris Benoit (6:55 to 7:55). Angle places Jericho in a chicken wing while down on the mat. Benoit interferes and missile dropkicks Angle in the face, saving Jericho. Benoit and Angle battle outside the ring. Benoit throws Angle into the crowd, then returns to the ring, where Jericho is lying on the mat. Benoit uses his top-rope headbutt and gets the victory for the Intercontinental title.

5. Hardcore battle royal (8:09 to 9:25). Yeah, it's a minute and 16 seconds, but we're including it because we don't recall ever seeing four title changes in such a brief period. Rodney pins Funaki for the hardcore title at 8:10. Joey Abs turns around and pins Rodney for the title at 8:23. Thrasher pins Joey Abs at 8:55. And Pete Gas smashes Thrasher with a fire extinguisher and pins him outside the ring at 9:25.

these days, there aren't many federation officials who care whether a title is fairly won. It's the show that counts. Angle vs. Jericho vs. Benoit was a good show. Not fair, but a good show.

Another example, the most drastic of all: the 13-man hardcore battle royal that Crash Holly entered as defending WWF hardcore champion. Pinfalls counted anywhere in the building, and the match had to last 15 minutes. Whoever was champion after 15 minutes was the winner.

The belt changed hands 10 times. Crash lasted all of 30 seconds. Tazz' first title reign lasted only 30 seconds. For those keeping track, the following men held the WWF hardcore title during WrestleMania 2000: Crash Holly, Tazz, Viscera, Sho Funaki, Rodney, Joey Abs, Thrasher, Pete Gas, and Hardcore Holly.

Most ridiculous sight of WrestleMania 2000: a referee raising Crash's arm after his pin of Tazz, even though 20 seconds remained in the match.

Second most ridiculous sight of WrestleMania 2000: Hardcore Holly winning the belt by pinning Crash as the time limit expired, even though the referee never finished the three-count.

Finally, a third example: Christian and Edge vs. The Dudley Boyz vs. The Hardy Boyz in the best match on the card. Edge and Christian retrieved the belts suspended above the ring to win the title, but that's probably not what you'll remember from this one. You'll remember the tables, the ladders, and the punishment all six men inflicted on one another. You'll remember the blood, the guts, and the glory: Jeff Hardy placing Buh Buh Dudley on a table set up in the aisle, climbing a ladder, and then executing a swanton bomb that sent him and Buh Buh crashing through the table and to the concrete floor. Or Edge and Christian sending Matt Hardy crashing off the ladders inside

VINCE RESTORES ORDER AND RESTORES HIMSELF

Daddy saved the day!

The most amazing thing about Vince McMahon's shocking turn at WrestleMania 2000 was that even the rest of the McMahon family had no idea it was going to happen. When Vince, the owner of the WWF, turned against The Rock during the fatal four-way, enabling Triple-H to win, everybody was shocked.

After all, only a few weeks earlier, Vince had confronted his children and told them it wasn't good business to run Mick Foley and The Rock out of the WWF. In retrospect, we should have known he wasn't sincere. After all, for years, the elder McMahon had tried to run Steve Austin out of the WWF ... and nobody was better for business than "Stone-Cold."

There are several possible explanations for the McMahon turn. We'll deal with them one by one and comment on each.

1. Just like Vince wanted to get rid of Steve Austin because he thought he didn't have the proper image for the WWF, Vince wanted to get rid of The Rock.

Well, like Vince said, The Rock is good for business, just like Austin is good for business, and there's nothing Vince cares more about than the bottom line. There's no way he really wants to send the hottest star in wrestling scurrying to WCW. That would cure *Nitro's* Monday night ratings troubles in a hurry.

2. Vince didn't like being at odds with his children and decided that the best way to keep the family together was for him to give in.

Possibly, and those who know him best say that Vince cares deeply about his family, but there's another side to this story.

"The amazing thing about the McMahon family is how they're able to separate business from personal life," said a WWF higher-up. "Although people referred to the McMahon family as dysfunctional, they really were in no danger of splitting apart, even at the height of their troubles in March."

3. Vince simply enjoys being a bad guy.

"I'll go along with that," said Jim Ross. "You can just see the sparkle in his eyes when he's the center of attention and everyone's booing him. Vince can be a star as a fan favorite, but when he shows his dark side, he's a superstar. Let's face it, everybody wants to hate the rich, corporate type who snickers at the people who buy his product. That's Vince."

In other words, Vince didn't turn against The Rock because he hates The Rock, or because he wanted to reunite with Stephanie and Shane. Vince turned against The Rock because it was the fastest way to become what he wanted to be: the most hated man in the WWF.

Vince loves being a bad guy.

We saw that at *Raw* one night after WrestleMania 2000, when he stood in the middle of the ring and insulted the fans in Los Angeles. As he called them vain, egocentric, and narcissistic, people fans booed louder and louder, and Vince rose sharply on the most hated chart. As Vince kept piling on the insults, the crowd chanted profanities at him. His smile got bigger by the second.

Once again, he was the center of attention. Once again, he was the bad guy.

Once again, this wasn't about who's right and who's wrong. This was about restoring order. Vince's order. As the most hated man in wrestling.

Kane gets revenge on X-Pac by tombstone piledriving him during their tag team match. After winning the match, Phatu and Kane attacked Pete Rose while the losers, X-Pac and Road Dogg, hung their heads on their way to the back.

Mae Young was all over special referee Val Venis during the Kat-Terri catfight. Because of this heinous assault (Young was seconding The Kat), there was probably no way Terri *wasn't* going to win the bout.

Chris Jericho nails Kurt Angle with a missile dropkick while Chris Benoit watches. Benoit pinned Jericho in the first fall of this two-fall match to win the I-C title, and Y2J pinned "The Crippler" for the second fall and the European belt.

the ring and through a table below.

Yeah, we know. You'll remember the catfight. Val Venis was the special guest referee for Terri vs. Kat in a match featuring very little wrestling (as expected) and plenty of extracurricular activities. Poor Val! We can't decide what's worse: getting kissed on the lips by 78-year-old Mae Young (which is what happened to Val) or getting a faceful of butt from Rikishi (which is what happened to Tori *and* Pete Rose). *Hmmmmmm* ... think we'll go with Val on this one. Mae planted a wet one on Val, who moments earlier had prevented her from showing her puppies. For this, we are eternally grateful to Val. As for Mae ... what is she drinking with her Geritol?

And about that catfight: Weren't you absolutely positive that Terri was wearing nothing under that sheer black bodysuit? Yeah, so were we. And if you didn't see it ... well, we can't describe it. Not in a family magazine.

It was a bad night for Eddy Guerrero, who got pinned by Chyna.

It was a bad night for Bob Backlund, who got punished by Kurt Angle for getting him into that triple threat match.

It was a bad night for Pete Rose, who should skip WrestleMania XVII and concentrate on getting into the baseball Hall of Fame.

Yeah, yeah, it was a tough night for the purists. A terrible night. The kind of night that could make Matt Brock cry.

But, as you might have guessed by now, the WWF doesn't give a damn about the purists. The WWF cares only about that strange hybrid called sports entertainment.

Mostly, it cares about entertainment—and for good reason: That's what it does best. □

***ECW'S LIVING DANGEROUSLY** was held on March 12, 2000, at the O'Neill Center in Danbury, Connecticut. The card included nine matches, eight of which were shown live on pay-per-view at a total cost of $21.95. Replays were aired immediately following the live broadcast and later in the week. Blow-by-blow was provided by Joey Styles. Commentary was provided by Cyrus, who replaced Joel Gertner at the start of the broadcast.*

First of all, we have tables. We have *lots* of tables. Broken tables. A table for every match, just about. If there was one common theme of ECW's Living Dangerously, it was ... tables. We don't know what ECW paid for use of the O'Neill Center, but we do know this: It overran its budget on tables alone.

At Living Dangerously, a lot of people crashed through tables. And some weren't even wrestlers.

Second, we didn't have many superstars. Rob Van Dam was nursing an injured ankle, so he didn't wrestle (although he did make an appearance). Sabu is gone. The Sandman didn't wrestle. For this pay-per-view, guys who generally wouldn't be counted on to carry the show were counted on to carry the show.

Did they carry the show? Well ...

Third, we have the official scheduled card for Living Dangerously. Throw it away. Because on this PPV, the best stuff was the stuff that wasn't supposed to happen. The most memorable matches—and most memorable brawls—had nothing to do with the advertised bouts.

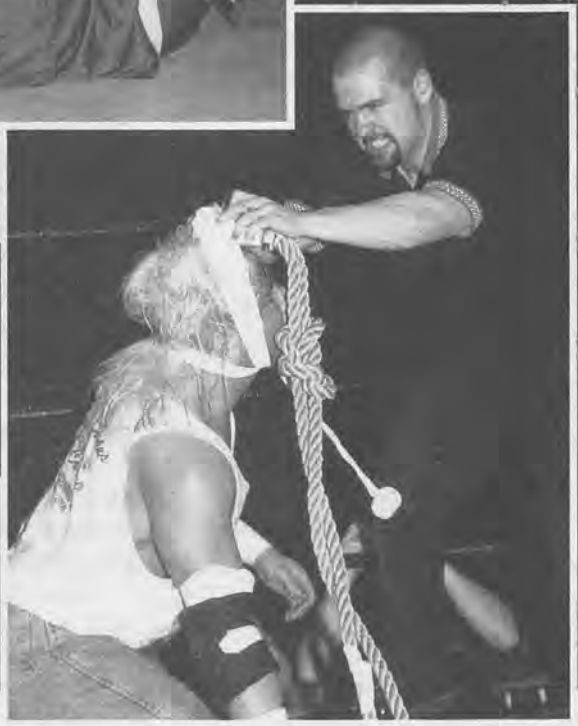
ECW defies the conventionalities of wrestling so frequently that the unconventional has become conventional in ECW. All those broken tables, which would have made us *ooh!* and *aah!* a year ago, don't seem so special anymore. Been there, seen that. But what happens when wrestlers realize this and try to push the envelope even further? Does wrestling then become *too* dangerous? The answers to these questions were on display at Living Dangerously when New Jack and Grimes fell about 20 feet off a scaffold, crashed through two tables, and landed on the concrete floor. More on that later.

Living Dangerously had obscenities. Lots of obscenities.

Cyrus cursed, and Paul Heyman cursed a blue streak, and just about any parent who was watching with a young child—God forbid!—had to have been horrified. Curses flow freely in ECW, but somehow at Living Dangerously, this adult language didn't seem so adult. Of course, the crowd cursed right back. This is ECW.

Not that we couldn't have thought it was anything else. Tune in to a WWF pay-per-view and you'll see gigantic banners hanging everywhere, the Titan Tron blocking off entire sections of the arena, and lighting so bright and professional that you'd think it was daytime. Fireworks. Music acts. At ECW, you get a few little banners and "Living Dangerously" painted on the mat. You don't get a Titan Tron. If you're at the card, you don't get to see what's going on backstage. Lighting? Heck, when Grimes and New Jack brawled into the crowd,

ECW's Living Dangerously gets off to a rollicking start as TNN stooge Cyrus attacks Joel Gertner from behind. Cyrus later hijacked Gertner's spot in the broadcast booth.



Referee H.C. Loc tapes a cowbell to Corino's head during his match with Dusty Rhodes. Loc was looking for revenge after Corino attacked him several days earlier at an ECW card in Milwaukee.

Photos by Frank Vitucci

our screen got so dark that we tried to adjust our TVs. No luck.

Not that ECW cares. Let the WWF and WCW be all about glitz, glamour, and high-tech production. ECW wants to be the promotion with all the rough edges. And there were plenty of rough edges at Living Dangerously.

Well, what did you expect for $21.95, about $10 less than the WWF and WCW are charging for their major offerings? Hey, you got to see Joey Styles beat up Cyrus ... in a video game. Last year, you got only one broadcaster. This year, you got two. You didn't get any bands or celebrities, but you did get an audience singalong when The Sandman came out.

You got what you'd expect from ECW: a lot of blood, a lot of hellacious action, a lot of broken tables, and a lot of the unexpected.

For openers, Joel Gertner thought he was going to work the card with Joey Styles. He was wrong. Cyrus came to the ring, said he was "network" and "TNN," blindsided Gertner, and took over his spot. To tell the truth, we weren't displeased by this late change: Cyrus and Styles together figured to be good for some fireworks.

Steve Corino then came out for his match against Dusty Rhodes, joined by Jack Victory. Corino made several disparaging remarks about Sandman's wife, Lori Fullington (who was in the front row), and even told her son that Sandman wasn't his real father. Finally, Sandman charged the ring, but was overmatched by Corino, Victory, and Rhino. When Fullington went after

LIVING DANGEROUSLY: COMPLETE RESULTS

Mikey Whipwreck beat Pit Bull I in a match not shown on pay-per-view ... Dusty Rhodes pinned Steve Corino at 8:32 ... Bill Wiles & C.W. Anderson beat Danny Doring & Roadkill when Anderson pinned Doring at 7:23 ... World champ Mike Awesome pinned Kid Kash at 4:45 ... Chris Chetti & Nova beat Gedo & Jado when Chetti pinned Gedo at 7:31 ... Super Crazy pinned Little Guido at 7:53 in the TV title tournament semifinals ... In the other semifinal match, Rhino won by forfeit over The Sandman ... Mahoney pinned Kintaro Kanemura at 2:06 ... The Impact Players—Lance Storm & Justin Credible—beat Mike Awesome & Raven and Tommy Dreamer & Masato Tanaka in a three-way dance for the World tag team title. Tanaka and Dreamer eliminated Awesome and Raven at 4:18 when Tanaka pinned Awesome. Storm pinned Dreamer at 8:52 ... Super Crazy pinned Rhino at 7:56 of the TV tournament finals.

C.W. Anderson folds under the combined efforts of Danny Doring and Roadkill. Anderson and Billy Wiles got the win after Elektra turned against her men and crotched Roadkill on the top rope.

Chris Chetti and Nova spoil the ECW pay-per-view debut of Jado and Gedo with their top-rope tidal wave. An accomplished team in Japan's FMW promotion, Jado and Gedo should have little trouble rebounding from the loss.

THE FIVE MOST EXTREME MOMENTS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY

1. The Dive III. At 1998's Living Dangerously, New Jack and Spike Dudley both dove from 15 feet up onto D-Von and Buh Buh Ray Dudley, who were laying below on tables. At 1999's Living Dangerously, New Jack climbed to a balcony about 15 feet high and dove onto Mr. Mustafa, who was on a table. At 2000's Living Dangerously, New Jack again stole the show with a stunt so crazy that the other ECW wrestlers in the locker room couldn't believe what they saw. First, Grimes set up one table on top of another near a scaffold. Then Grimes and New Jack climbed to the top of the scaffold. Grimes tried to power-bomb New Jack, but New Jack grabbed Grimes and jumped off the scaffold, sending both men crashing through the tables and to the cement floor. Grimes was taken away by security. New Jack left the arena in an ambulance. What will New Jack do in 2001? Will New Jack be alive in 2001?

2. Totally Awesome! Mike Awesome is a pretty spectacular wrestler. He combines strength with aerial and mat skills. His incredible strength and agility were on display in his impromptu match with Kid Kash. Awesome had already executed one Awesome bomb on Kash when he grabbed Kash on the top rope. With only one arm free, Awesome delivered an Awesome bomb that sent Kash crashing through a table. Awesome then covered Kash for the pin.

3. Don't take my wife ... please. Lori Fullington, Sandman's wife, was sitting at ringside with her children, just enjoying a night of ECW wrestling, when Steve Corino started to insult her and questioned whether the children were really Sandman's. Fullington entered the ring, and so did Sandman, who was piledriven by Rhino. Then Victory held Lori, and Rhino gored her through a table. The sound of Mrs. Sandman striking the table was a sickening thud.

4. Ring my bell. Dusty Rhodes is a tough, old-school wrestler. We never realized he was creative, too. But "The American Dream" made the most of his bullrope match against Steve Corino when he, along with referee H.C. Loc, used athletic tape to attach a cowbell to the top of Corino's head. Everybody knew what was coming next: Rhodes grabbed a steel chair and slammed it as hard as he could over Corino's head. *Ring!* Corino was suffering from headaches for the next week.

5. Hot Dam! Even a fractured ankle couldn't stop Rob Van Dam from making his presence felt. With seven minutes gone in the Rhino vs. Super Crazy match for the TV title, Van Dam came to the ring on Scotty Riggs' shoulders. Van Dam dismounted, cracked his crutch over Rhino's back, then dropped Rhino face-first through a table. Rhino attacked Van Dam, and a six-way brawl broke out. It ended when The Sandman caned Rhino three times over the head and celebrated with a beer.

Look out, Lori!

Corino, Rhino speared her through a table. Sandman carried his wife back to the locker room area.

That was the first impromptu brawl of the evening: Corino, Victory, and Rhino against Sandman and Lori.

And then came Dusty. "The American Dream" might be 100 years old with a gut the size of Rhode Island, but he's still as tough as any wrestler in the world. Rhodes doesn't mind bleeding, and he doesn't mind using foreign objects, which makes him even more perfect for ECW. He came out wearing jeans and cowboy boots for his bullrope match against Corino, and he wrestled cowboy tough.

Last year at Living Dangerously, Corino got roughed up by Mahoney. This year, Rhodes did the honor. Both men ended up bloody, but only Corino seemed to mind. For this match, chairs, not tables, were the important weapons, as Rhodes pounded Corino into a chair set up between the second and third turnbuckles, then smashed the chair over Corino's head. "The American Dream" looked like he was having a great time: He did a little boogie, than dropped a bionic elbow into Corino's gut before making the pin.

Lou E. Dangerously then came out with his Dangerous Alliance—Bill Wiles and C.W. Anderson—and proved one of the oldest maxims of wrestling: If you're not getting a response from the crowd, tell them to shut up. Then you'll get a response. It worked.

We have to say, though, that The Dangerous Alliance vs. Danny Doring and Roadkill looked like something out of the old AWA. There's Roadkill's nickname, "The Angry Amish Warrior." Wiles and Anderson remind us of Tully Blan-

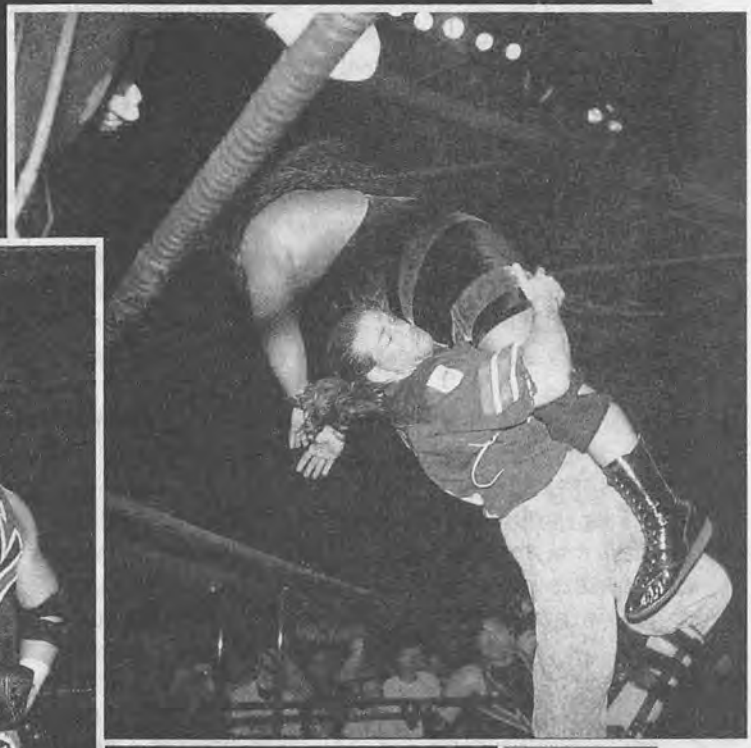
chard and Arn Anderson, just not as good. The highlight came when Elektra, wearing an extremely short silver dress, climbed into the ring. The co-highlight was when Elektra turned against Doring and Roadkill and helped Wiles and Anderson win.

At this point, Living Dangerously was shaping up as a supercard without a lot of super matches, and the prospects for improvement weren't looking good when Kid Kash came to the ring for his match against Simon Diamond. Fortunately, and much to the delight of the crowd, ECW World champ Mike Awesome came to the ring. This was supposed to be a PPV without a World title match, but that changed when Awesome challenged both men; only Kid Kash accepted. Awesome finished off Kash quickly with a spectacular one-armed Awesome bomb off the top rope and through a table.

Kash lay motionless on the ring, and Jazz came out to help him. Suddenly, however, Gedo and Jado attacked Jazz, and Chris Chetti and Nova attacked Jado and Gedo, and before anybody knew what was happening, the scheduled match—Jado and Gedo vs. Chetti and Nova—was on. Good match. A few spectacular senton bombs. Amityville horror by Chetti. Reverse power bombs. No broken tables. This was the kind of display you rarely see in the WWF or WCW. Finally, Chetti and Nova used the tidal wave—a splash/legdrop combo from the top rope—to win.

The main attraction was supposed to be the last two rounds of the tournament for the vacant TV title, but with Sandman attending to his wife in the hospital, Sandman vs. Rhino was canceled, and Rhino received a bye into the finals. Rhino was Cyrus' guy, the wrestler who was hand-picked by TNN to be the next TV champion. That made Little Guido vs. Super Crazy the only semifinal match, and it was a good one. Lots of broken tables. Interference by Sal E. Graziano. Crazy won with a top rope quebrada moonsault, followed by a brainbuster.

That's when things started get-



A broken ankle didn't stop former TV champ Rob Van Dam from showing up and planting Rhino through a table (above). Van Dam's assistance enabled Super Crazy (left) to pin Rhino and win the ECW TV title.

Angel takes the brunt of this crutch shot from New Jack, but it was "The Original Gangsta" who later needed a crutch after falling 20 feet from a scaffold—with Grimes landing on top of him.

MISSING SUPERSTARS: CAN A PAY-PER-VIEW SURVIVE?

Rob Van Dam couldn't wrestle because of a fractured ankle. Jerry Lynn couldn't wrestle because of a fractured ankle. The Sandman had to attend to his injured wife. Sabu quit. The ECW World title wasn't scheduled to be defended. The main event matches were the final two rounds of the TV title tournament. The biggest star on the show was a 50-plus Dusty Rhodes.

All these obstacles should have prevented Living Dangerously from being a success. Yet, according to a poll on one wrestling Web site, more than half of the people who ordered it thought it was an excellent show.

Not everybody was happy. On another wrestling site, many viewers complained about the brevity of the show: a relatively short two hours, 15 minutes, about 30 minutes less than they expected. But at the bargain price of $21.95, most viewers apparently didn't feel ripped off at all.

"ECW isn't about superstars, even though we have more than our share," said Joey Styles. "It's about extreme action and the world's greatest athletes giving their all, which is what they did."

Although final numbers weren't in as of press time, it was expected that the pay-per-view buy rate for Living Dangerously would be greater than the buy rate for WCW's SuperBrawl. That's pretty amazing, considering that WCW has Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Lex Luger, and Sting, while ECW has Steve Corino, Rhino, and Super Crazy.

Clearly, ECW is counting on the loyal fan base from its early years, when it was a mostly regional promotion in the Northeast, and the fan base it is building on TNN. Fans buy ECW pay-per-views because they want to see a lot of action and daredevil (some might say crazy) feats, such as New Jack's spectacular fall from the top of a scaffold. They got just that.

ting interesting. First, Mahoney pinned Kintaro Kanemura of Japan's FMW. Then Da Baldies attacked Mahoney, dragged him outside the ring, and placed him on a table, where 400-pound Grimes executed a suicide senton to send Mahoney through the table to the floor.

New Jack appeared on the scene, dragging out a garbage can filled with weapons: guitars, crutches, even a Sony Playstation. Everything was used. Everything was broken. Then New Jack and Grimes went at each other. They battled all over the building. Grimes set up a table, conveniently next to a scaffold. Then he placed another table on top of that. Grimes climbed the scaffold. New Jack followed. They had to have been 20 feet high. Then New Jack grabbed Grimes and fell off, intentionally, it seemed. They crashed through the tables and to the floor, with Grimes landing on top of New Jack.

Tommy Dreamer did his best to try to get the ECW tag belts back for his team at the PPV, but Justin Credible and his partner, Lance Storm, defeated Dreamer and Tanaka and Raven and Mike Awesome to regain the tag title.

Grimes was attended to by security while medical personnel tended to the motionless New Jack, who suffered a concussion, shoulder and chest bruises, and a bruised sternum. He also re-aggravated a cracked elbow.

This very ECW-like ECW moment was followed by two very good (and very meaningful) matches. Awesome and Raven, who had won the World tag team belts eight days earlier, couldn't get out of a three-way dance with the title. They were eliminated early by Masato Tanaka and Tommy Dreamer, who five minutes later were dismantled by Lance Storm and Justin Credible. ECW had new World tag team champs.

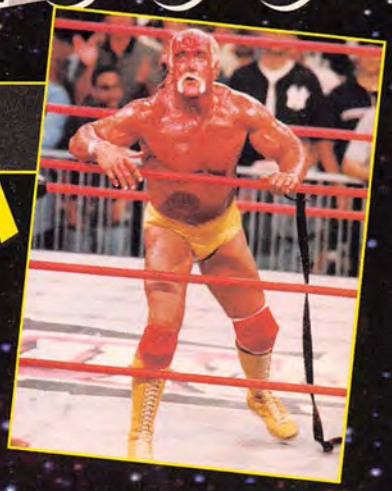
Finally, the main event featured Rhino vs. Super Crazy in the finals of the TV title tournament. Cyrus proclaimed the power of the network. Heyman cursed at Cyrus. The crowd cursed at Cyrus. The crowd cheered Heyman. The bell rang. Super Crazy and Rhino wrestled an outstanding match that featured many broken tables.

Yoshihiro Tajiri spewed green mist into Super Crazy's face. Van Dam came out on the shoulders of Scotty Riggs. Riggs went after Tajiri. Van Dam dropped Rhino face-first through a table. Super Crazy used a moonsault to pin Rhino and win the title. Another brawl broke out: Van Dam, Riggs, and Super Crazy on one side, Rhino, Victory, and Tajiri on the other. Music played. Fans sang. The Sandman came out and caned Rhino. They celebrated with a beer.

ECW-style! □

SUPERCARDS 2000

UNCENSORED



HULKAMANIA LIVES!

WRESTLEMANIA

EVIL VINCE RETURNS!

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

CORINO GETS THRASHED!

ALL THE DRAMA OF A SEASON OF MEMORABLE PAY-PER-VIEWS IS PRESENTED TO YOU IN BREATHTAKING FULL-COLOR AS PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED TAKES YOU RINGSIDE FOR SUPERCARDS 2000!

SUPERCARDS UNCENSORED 2000

Photos by Duane Long

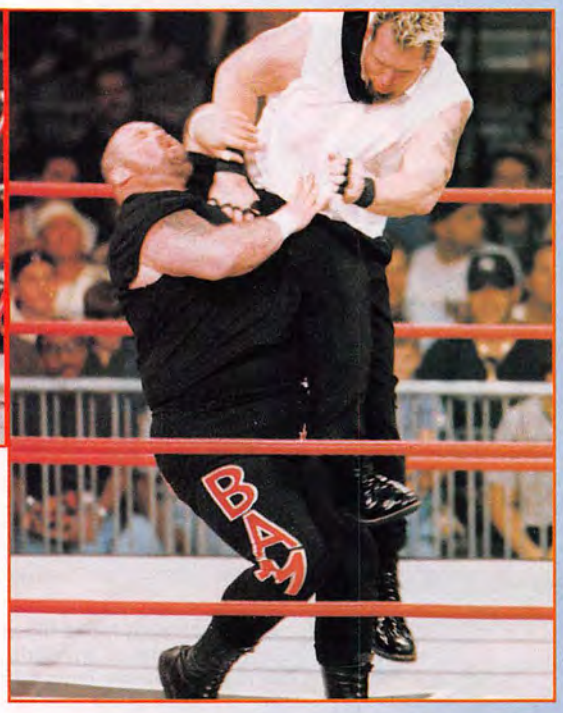
Cruiserweight champion The Artist tosses Psicosis around by his hair (left). The Artist later resorted to more legal means of punishing Psicosis, using a power bomb (below).

Juventud Guerrera couldn't resist the urge to interfere on his friend's behalf—or to get in Paisley's face—but that didn't help Psicosis win the belt.

Rave and Lane double up on The Demon, sending him face-first into the canvas (below). "Screamin' Demon" Norman Smiley fared better than his ghoulish partner (right).

SUPERCARDS UNCENSORED 2000

The Wall delivers a ham-sized right to the tattooed cranium of Bam Bam Bigelow (right). Both men made sure the fans saw a high-impact bout at Uncensored (far right).

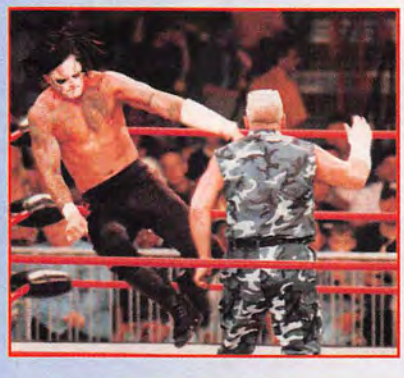


Crowbar made the mistake of interfering in The Wall vs. Bigelow match and got power-bombed off the set for his trouble. Crowbar sustained a multitude of injuries.

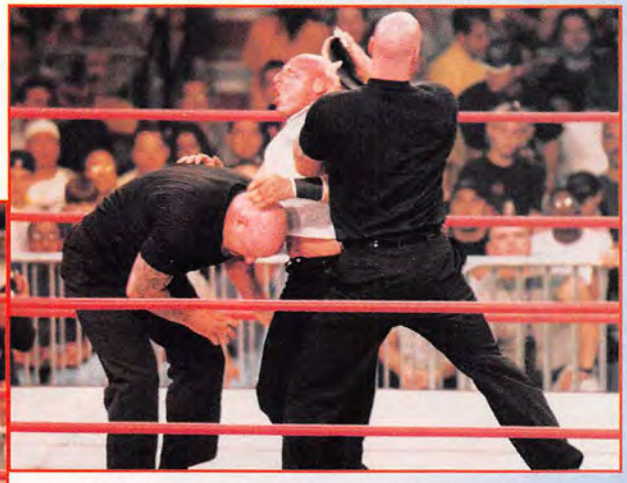
Brian Knobs had more difficulty wrestling Three Count than he planned on (below), but eventually found his groove and wiped them all out to win back his hardcore title (right).

SUPERCARDS UNCENSORED 2000

The New Harlem Heat showed Booker and Billy Kidman what teamwork was all about early in the match (left), but the combined efforts of Kidman and Booker led to this sunset flip/sidekick pinning combination on Big T (below).

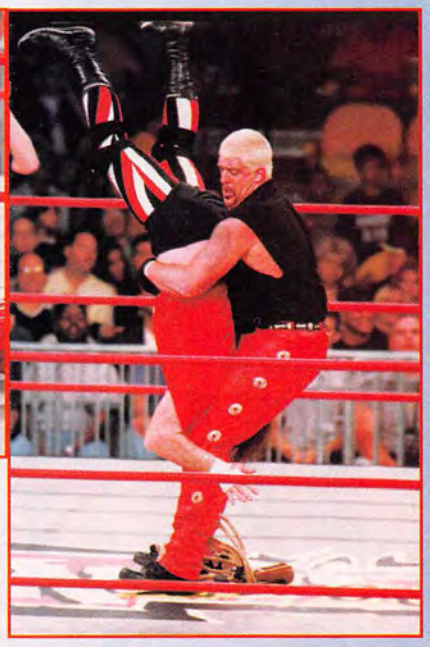


In what looks like a battle of invalids, Fit Finlay moves in for the kill on Vampiro, though it was actually Vamp who spiked Finlay with the nail in the coffin for the win. Notice the casts on both wrestlers.



The Harris brothers are so rambunctious that it took a concerted effort from both Johnny the Bull and Big Vito to keep just one of them under control (left). A Harris double-team spelled the end of Johnny and Vito's World tag team title reign later (above).

SUPERCARDS UNCENSORED 2000



Bells were ringing for Dustin Rhodes when Terry Funk whacked him in the head with this cowbell (right), but Funk later fell to the bell after Rhodes' piledriver (far right).

Sting calls on the fans for support as he rallies out of a Luger chinlock (right). Seconds after powering out, Sting gave his former friend a snootful of canvas (below).

It looked as if the victory was Luger's once he got Sting in the torture rack, but Vampiro interfered and helped Sting nail the scorpion deathdrop to get the pinfall win.

SUPERCARDS UNCENSORED 2000

World champion Sid Vicious scaled the announcers' table to lower the boom on Jeff Jarrett. Sid had the advantage early, as these guys brawled through the crowd.

The Harrises were on hand (as usual) to help Jarrett when he faltered, but Sid overcame their interference to continue his attack on the challenger.

Jarrett held a brief advantage over Sid when he managed to cinch on this sleeper, but even then, Jarrett's grip on the match was as tenuous as his grip here on Vicious.

The help of Big Ron and Heavy D backfires as Sid propels Jarrett headlong into the waiting World title belt (right). Sid got some unexpected help of his own when Hulk Hogan came to his aid (far right).

SUPERCARDS UNCENSORED 2000

No sooner had Hogan recovered from an NWO attack than he found himself linked by a leather strap to "Nature Boy" Ric Flair (left). Although he absorbed a nasty beating from the NWO, the "Hulkster" spent most of the match on the attack, throttling Flair with the strap (above).

Flair lands one of his famous chops to Hogan's chest, but it would have little effect, as the Hulk later landed a big boot and legdrop before finishing off Flair and touching all four turnbuckles.

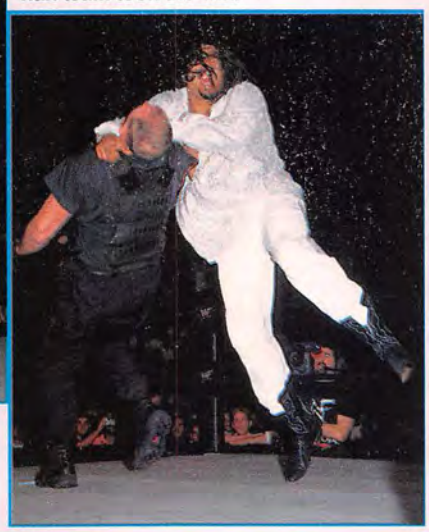
Lex Luger needed a steel chair to prevent Hogan from pummelling Flair on the runway (left), but Hogan was undaunted. He later dropped Luger with a boot to the face. Jimmy Hart interceded on Hogan's behalf after Flair opened up a nasty cut on his head (above).

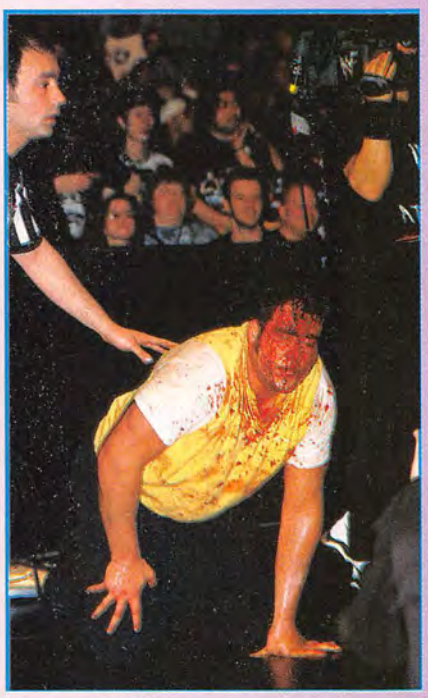
SUPERCARDS

WRESTLEMANIA 2000

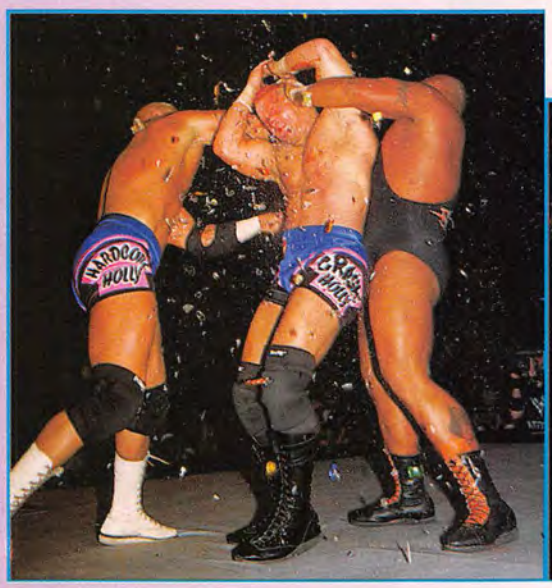
Photos by Frank Vitucci

The Godfather used his underrated power to overwhelm Big Bossman with a clothesline early on (below), but Godfather's partner, D-Lo Brown, didn't fare as well against WWF newcomer Bull Buchanan (left). The Bossman/Buchanan team took the win.





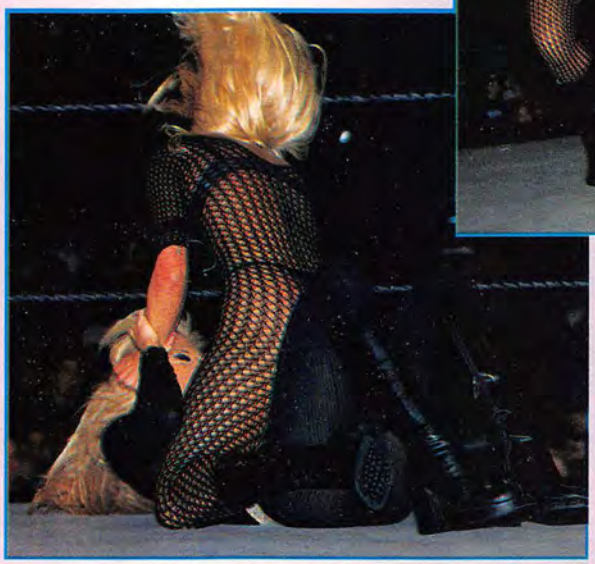
Poor Pete Gas. He enjoyed a second brief hardcore title reign at WrestleMania. Was spilling all this blood really worth it for him?



The Bob Holly-Crash Holly relationship deteriorated even further at Mania, as Bob, with help from Tazz, smashed a glass candy jar over his cousin's head (far left). Crash was busted open by the time Taka Michinoku got to him (left).

SUPERCARDS WRESTLEMANIA 2000

Steve Blackman's martial arts skills came in handy in hand-to-hand combat against T & A's Albert (left). Al Snow, however, proved to be no match for the double-team efforts of Trish Stratus' aggressive new team (far left).

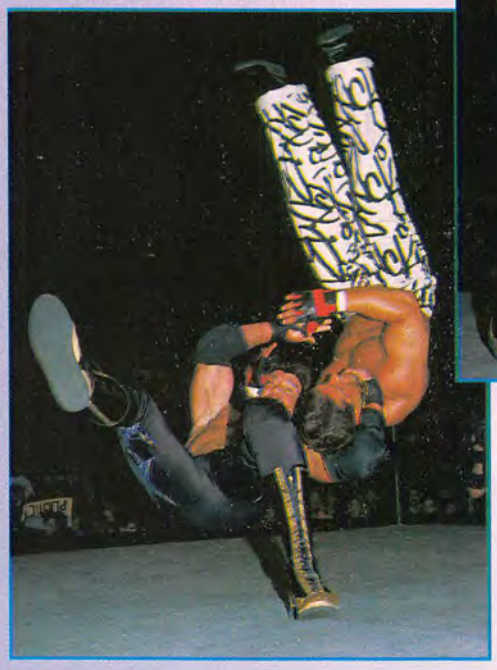


Although The Kat didn't have her hand raised at the end of her catfight with Terri, she was satisfied that she got the chance to pound her rival down on the mat (left) and toss her around the ring a few times (above).

Everyone knew Mae Young would get physically involved in the catfight. Guest referee Val Venis could have done without the big wet kiss Mae planted on him, however.

SUPERCARDS WRESTLEMANIA 2000

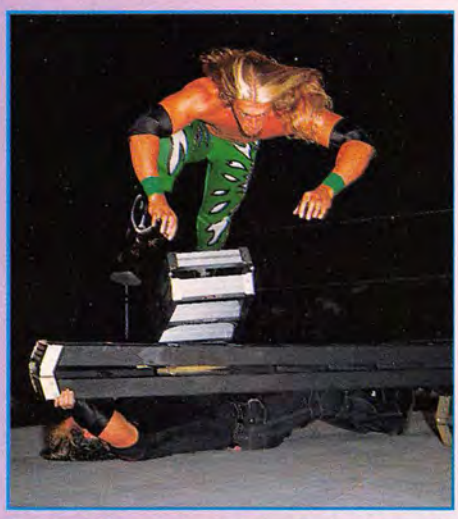
Eddy Guerrero looked good when he drove Grandmaster Sexay into the mat with a suplex (below) ... but not so good when he had to hook up with Chyna (right). Eddy's thrilled they're now the best of friends.



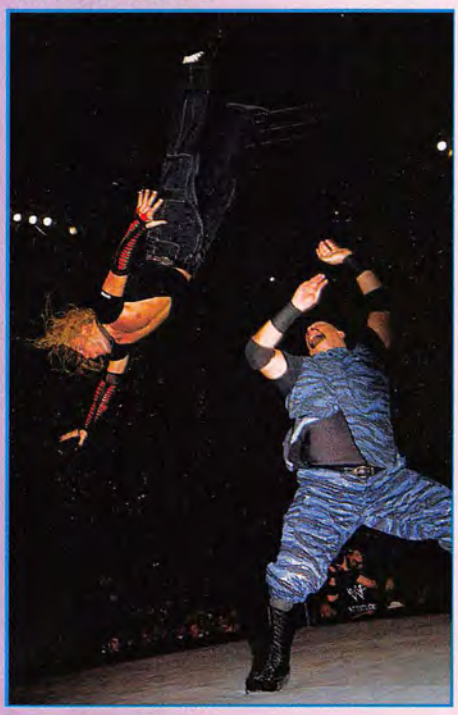
Though it wasn't Rose in the chicken suit, he did eventually hit the ring. After being choke-slammed by Kane and taunted by Paul Bearer (below), Rose suffered through the ultimate humiliation: a Rikishi stink face (above).

What happened in the X-Pac/Road Dogg-Kane/Rikishi match was secondary to what took place afterward. When someone dressed as the San Diego Chicken interrupted Too Cool's victory dance, everyone assumed it was Pete Rose.

SUPERCARDS WRESTLEMANIA 2000

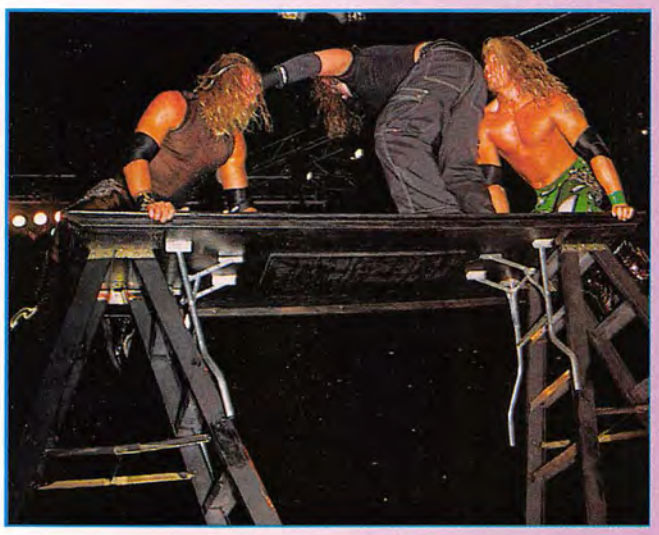


Both Edge (above) and Jeff Hardy (below) tried to brace themselves for impact while taking spill after spill in the three-way ladder match, but they rarely had much success.



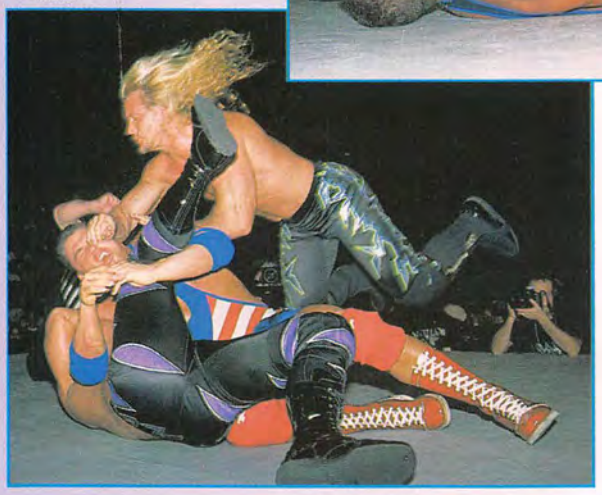
Even people watching at home on pay-per-view had to be wincing while watching some of the falls taken by Buh Buh Ray Dudley (right) and Matt Hardy, who destroyed his share of furniture (below).

The ladder match ended after a final struggle high above the ring. Christian and Edge ultimately grabbed the tag team belts and became champions for the first time.



SUPERCARDS WRESTLEMANIA 2000

Did anyone feel sorry for pompous Kurt Angle after Mania? He had Chris Jericho caught in the chicken wing for a while (right) and nearly pinned Chris Benoit (below), but he didn't leave with the Intercontinental *or* the European title.

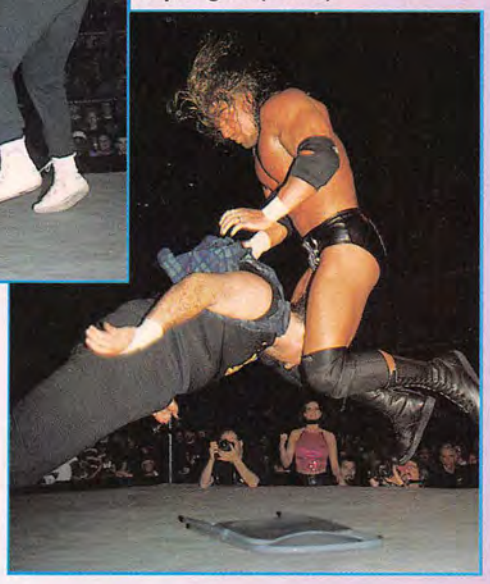


Although Jericho didn't put away Angle with his Walls of Jericho, he did win the second fall by pinning Benoit later and thus became the European champ (for a day).

Benoit used some beautifully executed suplexes against both Angle (right) and Y2J (below) and was rewarded for his efforts with an I-C title win.

SUPERCARDS WRESTLEMANIA 2000

The Rock 'n' Sock Connection reunited for brief periods of time and easily took Triple-H down with a perfectly executed double-clothesline (left). Mick Foley's last match ended minutes later, courtesy of a Triple-H pedigree (below).



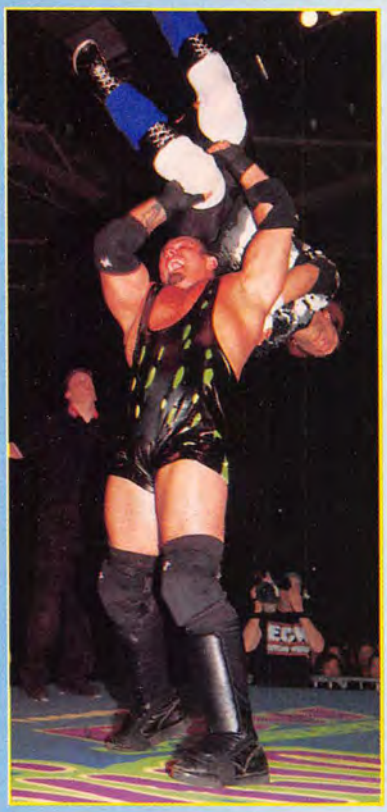
The Big Show dominated the four-way main event ever so briefly. He looks large and in charge against The Rock here, but he was the first man eliminated.

The Rock had his way with the World champ for a while after Foley was eliminated (right). Unfortunately for the millions ... and millions of Rock's fans, he never saw Vince McMahon's betrayal coming (far right).

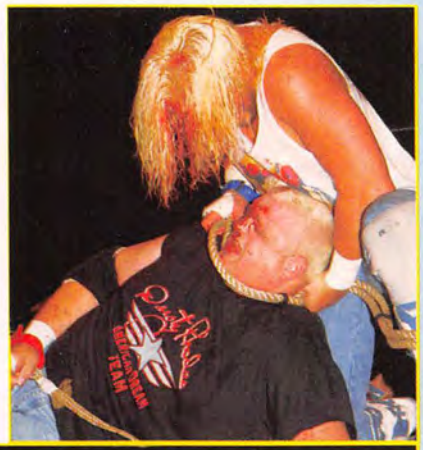
SUPERCARDS

LIVING DANGEROUSLY 2000

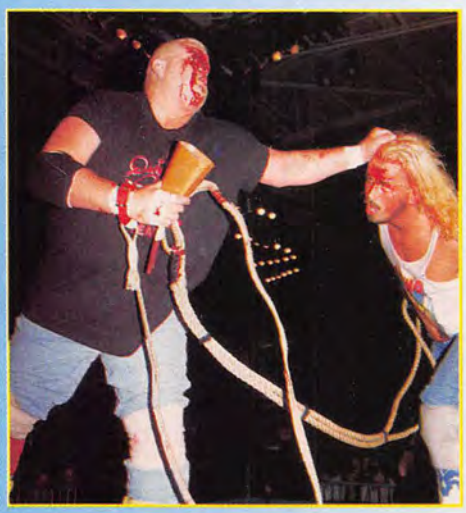
Photos by Frank Vitucci



Pit Bull I sends Mikey Whipwreck flying during the card's opening bout, but Mikey rallied to score a rare victory. Unfortunately, fans at home didn't see this match on the pay-per-view broadcast.



Steve Corino had Dusty Rhodes at his mercy several times during their bullrope match (above left), but "The American Dream" convincingly defeated Corino after landing some well-placed blows of his own (below left).



Give Corino an "A" for guts ... but an "F" for brains. Taking on Dusty Rhodes in a bullrope match—his favorite specialty bout—wasn't a very smart choice by the self-proclaimed "King Of Old School."

What would a Corino match be without interference from Jack Victory? Victory's presence at ringside still wasn't enough to help Corino overcome Rhodes.

SUPERCARDS

LIVING DANGEROUSLY 2000

Roadkill displays exceptional coordination and extreme power with this double-clothesline on Bill Wiles and C.W. Anderson (right), but his tag team partner, Danny Doring, didn't fare as well (far right).

World champ Mike Awesome spiked Kid Kash like a lawn dart with this standing fallaway Awesome bomb (right), but Kash also scored with *some* aerial offense of his own (below).

Kash barely lasted three minutes in the ring before Awesome decided to end the match with a series of power bombs. Kid was tough, but no match for the World champion.

SUPERCARDS

LIVING DANGEROUSLY 2000

Bloodied but determined, Little Guido came within a hair's breadth of advancing in the TV title tournament (above) before Super Crazy's excellent mat skills (right) earned him the victory.

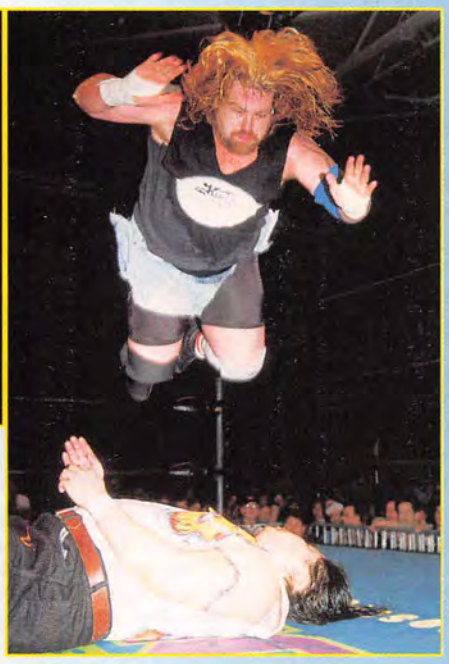
This legdrop to the back of Crazy's neck drives home the point that anyone who underestimates Guido's mat wrestling ability is making a big mistake. Crazy was fortunate to advance to the TV tourney finals.

Dealing with Guido's sidekick, Sal E. Graziano, is always risky business for Crazy. Sometimes he fends him off, but other times he's victimized by Sal's 600-pound frame. At Living Dangerously, he made Sal pay for interfering.

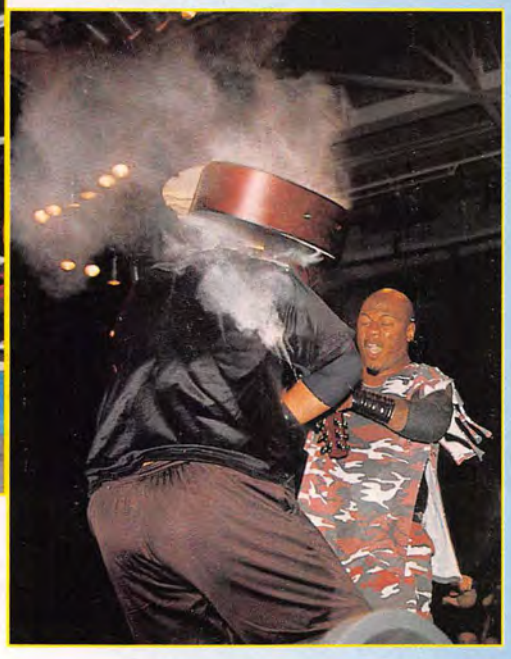
FMW regulars Jado (above, battling Chris Chetti) and Gedo (right, vs. Nova) wowed the ECW crowd in Danbury, Connecticut, on March 12, even though they lost to Nova and Chetti in an action-packed bout.

SUPERCARDS

LIVING DANGEROUSLY 2000



Living Dangerously took a turn toward the hardcore when Mahoney tangled with Kintaro Kanemura. Kanemura punished Mahoney with this chair (above), but Mahoney used a splash (right) and a nutcracker suite to pin his FMW foe.



Grimes made Mahoney pay for defeating Kanemura by putting him through a table using a senton splash from the ringpost (above). Da Baldies' attack prompted an appearance from New Jack, who played a tune for Angel with a guitar (right).

SUPERCARDS

LIVING DANGEROUSLY 2000

Lance Storm fell for one of Raven's staple moves—the drop toehold onto a folding chair. It's a humiliating move to fall for, but Storm (and Justin Credible) had nothing to be ashamed of at the conclusion of the three-way dance for the World tag team title.

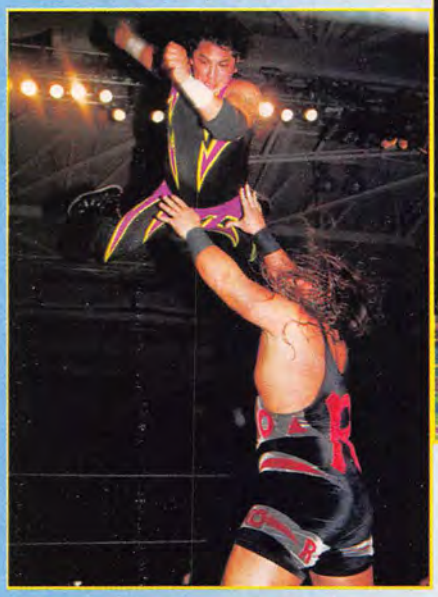
After eliminating the champs, Mike Awesome and Raven, Justin Credible had trouble controlling Masato Tanaka (left) and Tommy Dreamer (below). They were just as determined as The Impact Players to win back those belts.

Teamwork is essential to the success of any tandem, and both teams relied heavily on it in this match. Storm and Credible brutalized Dreamer (above) but suffered the same fate when Tanaka and Dreamer pooled *their* efforts (right).

SUPERCARDS

LIVING DANGEROUSLY 2000

Rhino and Super Crazy met in the finals of the TV tourney title in a classic battle of power vs. speed. When Crazy took to the air (below), he thrived. When Rhino kept his foe on the mat (right), *he* excelled.



Just when it looked like Crazy would fall to Rhino's dreaded spear, the nimble cruiserweight countered with a DDT. What a classic matchup of men with drastically different styles!

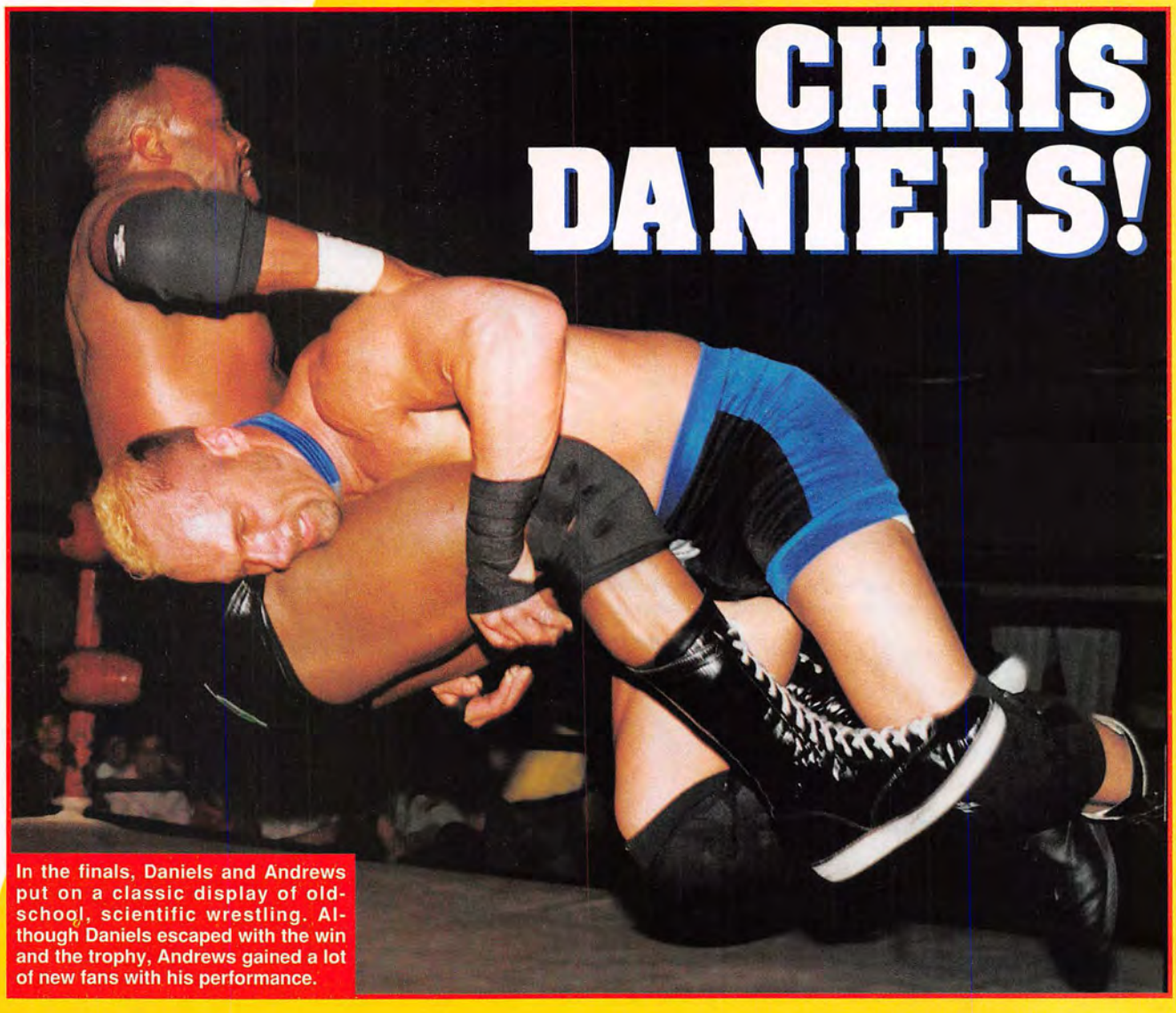
Sandman gains revenge on Rhino, who had sent Sandman's wife, Lori, to the hospital with a spear earlier in the night. Just when Rhino though he had seen the last of The Sandman, "The Extreme Icon" returned to square things up.

Crazy shakes hands with Rob Van Dam, who suplexed Rhino through a table, thus allowing Crazy to pin Rhino and win the TV title. Van Dam, of course, had been forced to abandon that championship in order to save ECW's deal with TNN.

ECW SUPER 8 2000

Photos by Frank Vitucci

A CLEAN SWEEP FOR CHRIS DANIELS!



In the finals, Daniels and Andrews put on a classic display of old-school, scientific wrestling. Although Daniels escaped with the win and the trophy, Andrews gained a lot of new fans with his performance.

The contestants for the 2000 Super 8 tournament: Bottom row, left to right: Jeff Peterson, Vic Capri, Shark Boy, Jet Jaguar. Top row, left to right: Chad Collyer, Trent Acid, Scoot Andrews, Chris Daniels.

Controversy and catastrophe are hallmarks of today's supercards, yet some purists still yearn for athleticism over anarchy. For those discerning few, Chris Daniels' Super 8 tournament win was a victory for all of wrestling

By Harry Burkett

TIRED OF THE dueling microphones and media hype that surround WrestleMania? Are you convinced Uncensored should be censored by those seeking worthwhile entertainment? Do chair shots and table-breaking cause you headaches during Living Dangerously?

If so, take a closer look at the no-frills action that characterizes the Super 8. For wrestling purists, there is no greater extravaganza. St. Matthew's Parish Hall in Wilmington, Delaware, is the home of the annual junior heavyweight tourney, which attracts independent competitors from across the U.S. Jim Kettner, promoter of the East Coast Wrestling Association, generates a list of prospective talent and works out the details for a one-night stand. Simply being invited to participate in the tournament is a tremendous honor.

If you're fortunate (and talented!) enough to win the Super 8, well, it can be a *huge* career boost.

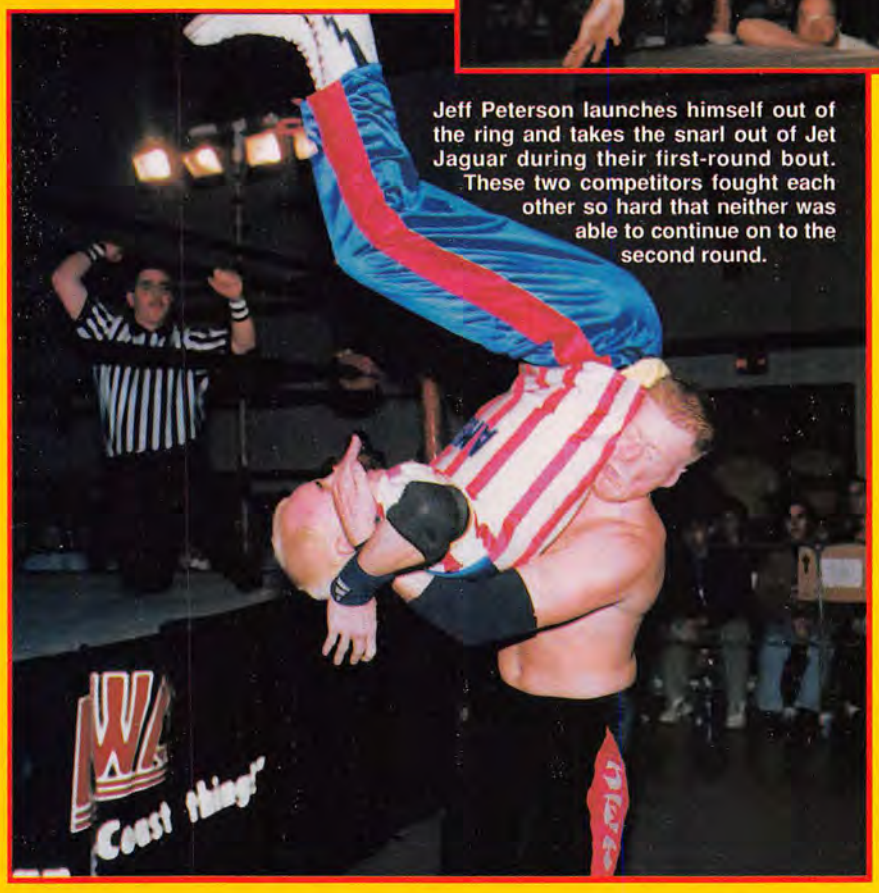
Ask this year's winner. Chris Daniels—who has extensive experience in Japan's Michinoku Pro and in numerous independents, was invited to the WWF's dojo in November, and signed a contract with WCW shortly after taking home this year's trophy—nearly won the competition in 1999, but lost to Steve Bradley in the finals. Coming so close to victory in '99 inspired Daniels to work even harder and to focus on one goal: winning this year's Super 8.

"Last year, I traveled all the way from the West Coast to be in the tournament," said Daniels. "It was a unique opportunity for me to prove my talent, because no North American competition attracts the premier junior heavyweights like the Super 8. During the past year, I replayed that final match with Steve Bradley in my mind over and over."

Daniels was so close. He defeated Jeff Peterson and Matt Hardy before dropping the last match to Bradley. In the 2000 tournament, Daniels' opposition would be even tougher.

"Interest in the Super 8 Tournament increases with each passing year," said Kettner. "I came up with a list of 44 wrestlers this time around. Believe me, it was a

"Black Nature Boy" Scoot Andrews thrilled everyone in attendance at St. Matthew's Parish Hall during his first-round match with Trent Acid. Acid put up a good fight, but the Floridian proved to be too tough.



Jeff Peterson launches himself out of the ring and takes the snarl out of Jet Jaguar during their first-round bout. These two competitors fought each other so hard that neither was able to continue on to the second round.

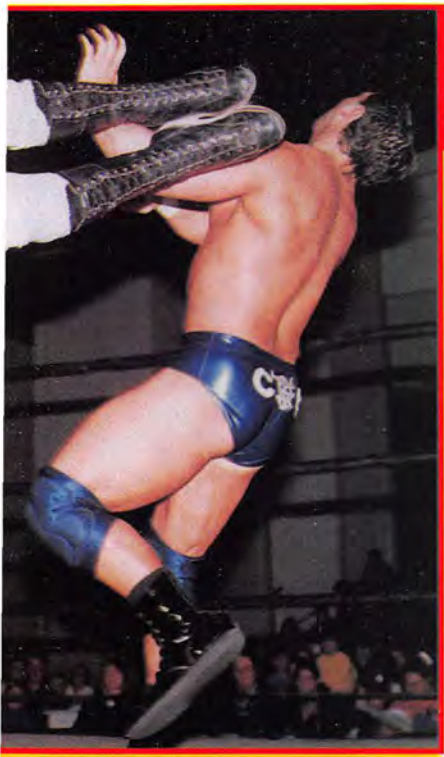
painful process trying to trim that down to the elite eight."

The event, held on February 26, began when 1997 winner Ace Darling brought the 2000 Super 8 trophy to the ring. Darling introduced the eight participants: Trent Acid, Scoot Andrews, Chad Collyer, Shark Boy, Jet Jaguar, Jeff Peterson, Vic Capri, and Daniels. ECWA Commissioner Richard Naegele presented each with a medallion.

Even the opening-round bouts were dramatic. "Black Nature Boy" Scoot Andrews, a force on the Florida Championship Wrestling scene, exchanged several near-falls with local favorite Trent Acid before scoring the pin with a Scooter driver at 9:22. Chad Collyer and Shark Boy continued their Ohio-based feud in the next match. Shark Boy gained momentum by biting Collyer's posterior, then earned successive two-counts with a German suplex, top turnbuckle Liger bomb, and Northern Lights suplex. Collyer reversed a small package to advance at 7:59.

Florida wrestlers Jet Jaguar and "All-American" Jeff Peterson waged a high-flying war inside the ring and out. Jaguar, who suffered a head injury in the contest, countered a top-rope dive with a rollup three-count. "Ice Pick" Vic Capri, aware of his opponent's success in the previous tournament, tried to pin Chris Daniels early with various suplexes. Eventually, Daniels stunned Capri with a DDT, which he followed with his version of the pedigree, called last rites to advance to the semifinals.

After two non-tournament matches, Daniels met his next opponent, Jaguar. However, Ace Darling announced that Jaguar couldn't wrestle due to his injury. Daniels, with his arrogance overriding his common sense, demanded a match against Darling. Barefoot and wearing sweat pants, Darling accepted



Chad Collyer found himself in the middle of a feeding frenzy during his match with Shark Boy. Shark Boy had to dive back down to safety after taking a chunk out of Collyer with this impressive dropkick.

"The Fallen Angel" weakened Andrews' right arm with armbars, arm twists, elbowdrops, and legdrops. Scoot retaliated by punishing Daniels' left leg. Later, Andrews executed a sidewalk slam for a near-fall, only seconds before Daniels caught Scoot by surprise and pinned him with the last rites at 14:09.

"I really thought it was my time," said Andrews. "I'm frustrated by the outcome, but I don't think anyone could have beaten Daniels. He was possessed."

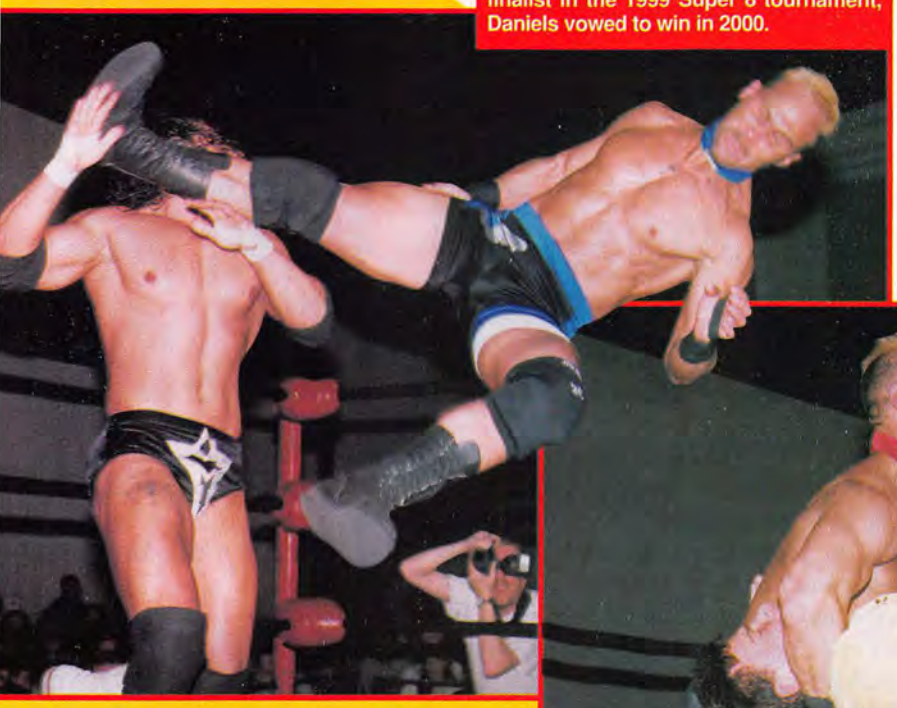
Notice we didn't include any details on outside interference. That's because Kettner makes it clear he will tolerate no interference, no help from managers, and no use of weapons in the tourney.

"Wrestling's gotten to a point where you see that kind of stuff in almost every match," said Kettner. "We go back to basic competition in the Super 8, and the people really seem to love it."

Before heading to WCW, Daniels was to travel to the Orient to compete in the Best of the Super Juniors Tournament in Japan. Daniels hoped to join Chris Benoit as a winner of the multi-promotional competition.

"Benoit is an example of how far the Super Juniors can elevate someone's career," Daniels commented. "Training for the Super 8 helped get me there, and I'll never forget this experience."

The pride of Daniels is matched only by the disappointment of the other seven participants in the 2000 Super 8. Some are already training with next year's tourney foremost in their thoughts. In the meantime, indy fans will look forward to one of the sport's real supercards, where wrestling still matters. □



The parishioners of St. Matt's were none too happy when "The Fallen Angel" Christopher Daniels got by Vic Capri. A finalist in the 1999 Super 8 tournament, Daniels vowed to win in 2000.

the match. He received the last rites at 4:09.

In the following contest, Andrews got several two-counts before Chad Collyer countered with a Northern Lights suplex and a missile dropkick. Andrews battled back with another Scooter driver to advance.

Chris Daniels and Scoot Andrews, despite their exhaustion, had the longest match of the evening.

With both Peterson and Jaguar unable to continue, inaugural Super 8 champion Ace Darling stepped in to take his place. For his efforts, he received the last rites from Daniels.

press conference...

Rob Van Dam hands over his ECW TV title to TNN employee, Cyrus, who threatened to yank ECW from the network because Van Dam, who broke his ankle in late-January, was unable to defend the belt.

ROB VAN DAM

AFTER HOLDING THE ECW TV title for 22 months, Rob Van Dam was poised to take that vaunted "next step" by challenging ECW World heavyweight champion Mike Awesome for his title. Unfortunately for Van Dam, a freak injury suffered in late-January ensured that this highly anticipated showdown would not take place for at least another three months.

RVD's "bad break" couldn't have come at a worse time for him or his promotion. Long regarded as ECW's most visible (some say most exciting, some say most talented) wrestler, Van Dam's popularity was at an all-time high, and ECW's ratings on TNN were increasing weekly when he went down. There were even rumblings—thanks to growing house show attendance and strong pay-per-view buy rates—that ECW could eventually unseat WCW as the nation's number-two wrestling company.

For the time being, though, ECW must make due without its superstar ... and its superstar must make due without his TV title, which he was forced to give up on March 4. Giving up the belt with which he was so closely associated didn't please Van Dam, but true to form, RVD is confident he'll win the TV and the World title in due time.

Apparently, the down time has afforded Van Dam a chance to collect his thoughts, and he was gracious enough to share them with Associate Editor Frank Krewda and Photo Editor Frank Vitucci during an exclusive interview/photo shoot at his home in San Pedro, California.

FRANK KREWDA: The big deal when it comes to Rob Van Dam these days is the injury. Tell us the extent and nature of the injury.

ROB VAN DAM: The injury sustained was a fractured tibia. I have a three-inch crack in my leg at the ankle joint. I got it from doing the simplest of moves on a house show in Orlando. Very shortly into the match, I did a baseball slide and my feet didn't stay together. One ankle rolled underneath me and I broke my leg. It happened at the beginning of the match, but I continued for another 15 minutes. I knew I was hurt, but I kept trying to shake it off. I had no idea it was broken until I got it X-rayed later. I was very surprised.

"My next step? ... I would enjoy a title reign while everyone's looking at ECW, when all the heads are turned toward us. It may take having me as the heavyweight champ to make the heads turn toward us."

KREWDA: You had been injured before, but not this seriously. Is this the longest layoff you've ever faced?

VAN DAM: Yes. I've always had bumps and bruises and even had a cast on the same foot. It wasn't as serious, and I only had the cast on for a couple weeks. At this point, this is the most serious injury because it's putting me out of the ring for a very important three months, not only for my position in ECW, but ECW's position in the business. There's just a lot going on right now, which adds to the seriousness of being out. I'm fine, though, as far as the road to coming back.

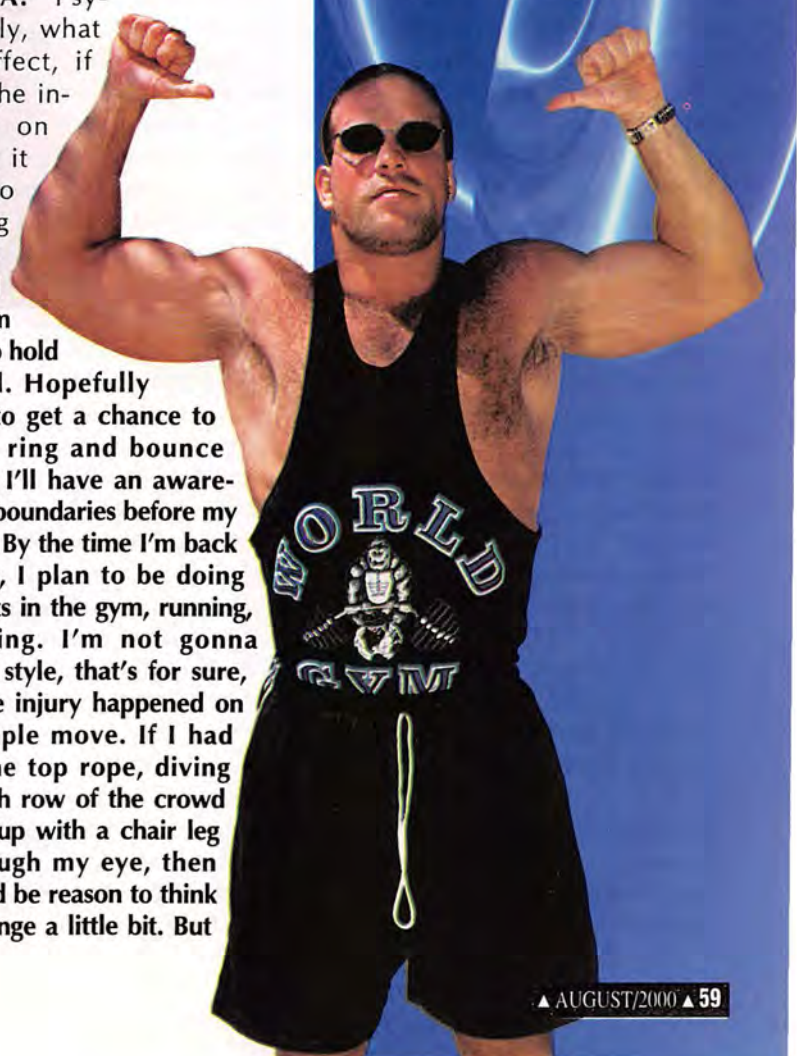
KREWDA: Do you have any anxiety that this injury will affect your momentum and the company's as well?

VAN DAM: At this point, I don't think keeping my name out there will be a problem. If anything, I think I'll be welcomed back with an ovation from the crowd. Of course, this is just me assuming what's going to happen. It could quite easily go the other way, but they're e-mailing my Web site like crazy, wishing me a speedy recovery. Everybody wants to see me get in the ring as soon as possible, but not too soon. They don't want to see me get in the ring before I'm ready to. I have no doubts that my leg will heal up fine and I'll put it behind me very quickly once I get in the ring. In the long term, I don't think it will damage my career, or ECW for that matter.

KREWDA: Psychologically, what kind of effect, if any, will the injury have on you when it comes to executing maneuvers?

VAN DAM: I'm not going to hold back at all. Hopefully I'm going to get a chance to get in the ring and bounce around, so I'll have an awareness of my boundaries before my first match. By the time I'm back in the ring, I plan to be doing heavy squats in the gym, running, and jumping. I'm not gonna change my style, that's for sure, because the injury happened on such a simple move. If I had been on the top rope, diving into the fifth row of the crowd and ended up with a chair leg going through my eye, then sure, there'd be reason to think I might change a little bit. But

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.



to get injured on a baseball slide is something we have to chalk up as a freak accident and just keep on going, although I'll definitely be aware of my execution to a finer degree.

KREWDA: What compromised your execution on such a simple move?

VAN DAM: I blame it on how tired I was. In this particular match, I may have working the most tired I had ever been in my career. Dory Funk Jr. told me a long time ago, "No matter how you feel before you get in the ring, you can always do your job." That's partly what pushed me through this weekend. I come from the West Coast to the East Coast every weekend to wrestle, so it takes a lot out of me. Some nights, the only sleep I get is three hours on a plane, and this particular week had a few days like that. I was set to go from Los Angeles to Florida for the Florida loop when a very good friend of mine, Bobby Duncum Jr., passed away. I had to fit in a stop in Texas on my way to Florida to see his family. That took a lot out of me as well.

KREWDA: At the time of the injury, you had just started your program with ECW World heavyweight champion Mike Awesome. Have you and Paul Heyman discussed where you will be inserted into the lineup when you return?

VAN DAM: I haven't been in conversation with Paul at all about this issue, and since my injury, I've spoken with him very little. I spoke with him as soon as the injury happened, and since then it's been a little bit of phone tag. My prediction is that I'll continue the battle with Mike Awesome because it's just inevitable. Now that Mike Awesome has the heavyweight title, everybody wants to see me kick his ass for it. It's kind of two different issues. Me getting the World heavyweight title is one. The fans have always been pulling for it. They want to see me be the champion of ECW. Kicking Mike Awesome's ass is sort of a separate issue because he's only had the heavyweight title for all of 15 minutes at this point. It's not as if he's had this enormous title reign where he can't find anyone who can beat him. He's had very few challengers. With Mike Awesome being the man while I'm out, when I come back, I'm going to have to stomp a hole in him, put him in his place, and make all the RVD fans happy.

KREWDA: Did the communication problem between you and Paul worry you at all?

VAN DAM: I'm not surprised that I'm not in close contact with Paul, because that's usually the way it is. He has a horrible, horrible reputation for sucking real bad at returning phone calls, and he lives up to it very much. He has made several attempts to get a hold of me, so I don't think he's completely running everything without running it by me, too. At the same time, I'm curious as to what's going on with the plans and what they're doing on TV, but it's not my main priority, because I know that whether I have the TV title or not, I won't have to start all over at the bottom of the ladder. I won't have to prove myself to anybody. I'll just be right back on path, kicking everybody's ass. Even if I go back to the ring without the television belt, nobody beat me for it.

While Rob Van Dam is arrogant and intense, Rob Szatkowski, posing with his wife Sonya and pet chihuahua Xena, is a "very Zenful, very mellow person." Sonya says her husband is a much different person when he wrestles.

KREWDA: After going undefeated for two years, you must be satisfied with how your career has advanced in ECW. Is there anything you wish you had done differently?

VAN DAM: With all the jumping around I've always done, I've always been happy with my decisions afterward. When I was in WCW and I found myself going nowhere, I wanted to quit and go back to the independent scene more than I wanted to be in WCW. Some of the other guys, like Maxx Payne and Chris Benoit, were telling me I was crazy for quitting, because so many guys would love to be in my position. I didn't let that affect me. I was like, *Let them have my position. I don't want it.* And I quit. I went to the independent scene and actually made more money—and I was happier. When I went to the WWF, it was the same thing. I found myself on a road I didn't like.

KREWDA: What happened in the WWF?

VAN DAM: Well, there were a lot of middle men, so what the true plans were is going to depend on who you ask. I had Paul Heyman telling me that we were outsiders in the WWF, that they didn't even want us there. It was completely a watch-

Rob takes great pride in his ability to work a face-paced, action-filled match. To do that, he must remain in top physical condition. It was no surprise to find Van Dam pumping iron while his injured leg healed.

your-back kind of situation, where Paul said, "It's very short term. We might be here for one night. We might be here for two nights. It's all up to me. If I don't like what's going on, we'll just get out of here, because it's not gonna last anyway." That's what I was being told as I was going in to it. Then when I came in to debut on *Monday Night Raw,* I saw that, yes, they were building me up as this outsider, this wrestler from a group of rebels called Extreme Championship Wrestling. "He's come here to show Monday night what hardcore wrestling is and why he's too good to be wrestling for ECW in front of a bunch of drunks. He belongs here on Monday night wrestling with the true superstars. So let's see what Rob Van Dam's all about." They gave me six minutes to go out and show what I'm about. That included my ring entrance, an interview with Jerry Lawler, my match, and leaving the ring. I'm used to wrestling 20, 30, 40 minutes. I like working hard, and I feel it's my job to show the crowd what I've got. Before I went down to the ring for that first match on *Monday Night Raw,* the production crew told me they were behind on time, and they shortened the match to five minutes. Already, I was not happy with the way things were run there, but yet I had a decent match. I pinned Jeff Hardy, made some impact, and had some people talking because I was an outsider beating their guys. A couple weeks later, they teamed me with Jerry Lawler against The Headbangers. I show up for the Monday night taping and they tell me, "Just relax, we're gonna tape your match and show it on *Shotgun Saturday.*" All the wrestlers were totally unmotivated because they said no one even watches *Shotgun Saturday,* so nobody cares about the match. They beat Jerry Lawler, and now I find myself in a spot asking what happened to all the momentum that I had, not six months ago, not three months ago even, but two matches ago? It was gone so quickly that my angle dissolved. It was time for me to get out of there.

I had four matches with them, and on the fifth, when they planned on having Jerry Lawler come in to get me disqualified, I couldn't see where that was going. I demanded a meeting with Vince McMahon, where I found out that he wanted me to sign with the WWF exclusively. At the same time, I had Paul Heyman, who set up the whole angle, telling me to walk out any chance I get because the WWF was just going to [screw] us. So I had two different people, plus everybody else, telling me way different things. When I got out of there, I used that momentum to get me where I am today. Prior to the Monday night thing, I was unhappy with what was going on in ECW. I was teaming up with Sabu at the time, and we were wrestling against The Eliminators. I was the guy who had to go down, because Sabu couldn't get beat. The Eliminators couldn't get beat, because they were getting the big push. As a result, night after night, I found myself unhappy, unmotivated,

A win over Jeff Hardy enabled RVD top make an impact in the WWF in 1997, but he soon soured on the federation's plans for him. Leaving the WWF was just one of many career choices that helped Van Dam get to where he is today.

feeling wasted, and I wasn't going anywhere.

It was actually Eric Bischoff who offered me a job with WCW, who started the whole "Mr. Monday Night" angle. I considered taking Bischoff up when Paul stopped me at the last second and said, "Wait a minute—everybody thinks you're going to Monday night to wrestle for WCW. Why don't we put you on *Monday Night Raw*?" Then it wasn't just a case of a wrestler jumping companies—it was something totally undone before, and it gave ECW a chance to be in the spotlight. The angle was put together well, but I had some other ideas about it. If I would have stayed there, we would have completely forgotten why I was there in the first place. I came in as the outsider, a wrestler who doesn't even belong in the WWF, who came in from somewhere else. Three weeks later, without even an explanation, they have every wrestler on the independent scene wrestling out there. They brought in Sabu, Chris Candido, and Brian Christopher. They just put them in the ring without even explaining them, without having them brought in by the outsider or anything. It wasn't something anyone thought all the way through or kept up with. So when I quit there, I definitely didn't regret it. When I quit All-Japan, I found myself stuck in a spot where it would take me another five or six years of work before I could get above the next guy. The matches had become so predictable: I was going to beat all the juniors, but when it came to the heavyweights, there was just no question as to which way the match was gonna go. So it was time for me to leave there, and I loved working for Giant Baba. From 1993 to '97, I was touring regularly, but it was a career decision to leave, and I don't regret that one, either. So when I think about the controversial decisions everybody thought I was crazy for making, I can safely say I have no regrets.

KREWDA: Although it's never been said outright, it's obvious Paul Heyman has strapped the company to your back. What's it like being the man whom ECW is being built around?

Van Dam is proudest of his matches with Jerry Lynn because they enabled him to showcase his vast talents. RVD maintains that his matches with Lynn were as much fun for him to perform as they were for the fans to watch.

VAN DAM: It's something that I'm not only comfortable with, but excited about. Definitely. There's something to be said for being a big fish in a small pond. In the last four years I've been with ECW, we've gone from being the smallest little mud puddle, wrestling with a dressing room full of wrestlers who couldn't work a lick. There was very little talent in the dressing room. A lot of that talent has improved over the years and gone elsewhere. At this point, ECW has grown to be a phenomenon—a weekly syndicated show, a weekly national show with six pay-per-views a year, action figures, and the ECW video game. So it's no longer a small group that no one knows about anymore. When fans tell me that we're the number-two or number-one company, I believe that, in their minds, we're number one because they appreciate what we do for them—more than the Monday night wrestling. Unfortunately, we don't have the talent roster or the budget that the Monday night groups have, so that gives us more of a challenge in overcoming their ranks. WCW is falling real fast. As they're falling very fast, we're also rising very fast, and we have a lot of things going against us. For instance, we're on Friday night, and we're on TNN. Most people don't even know if they get TNN on their television—unless they're a fan of fishing or *The Dukes Of Hazzard.* Even with all that working against us, we have enough people catching on to us to where they're really gonna pick the company up. So instead of going to one of the Big Two, I want to see ECW *become* one of the Big Two. Then I'm still on top of the company, I'm still that big fish, but now my little pond has grown into a big lake. But the WWF is the king right now.

KREWDA: The WWF may be the king in the ratings right now, but as far as what goes on in the ring, I'm not so sure they're superior to anyone else, ECW included.

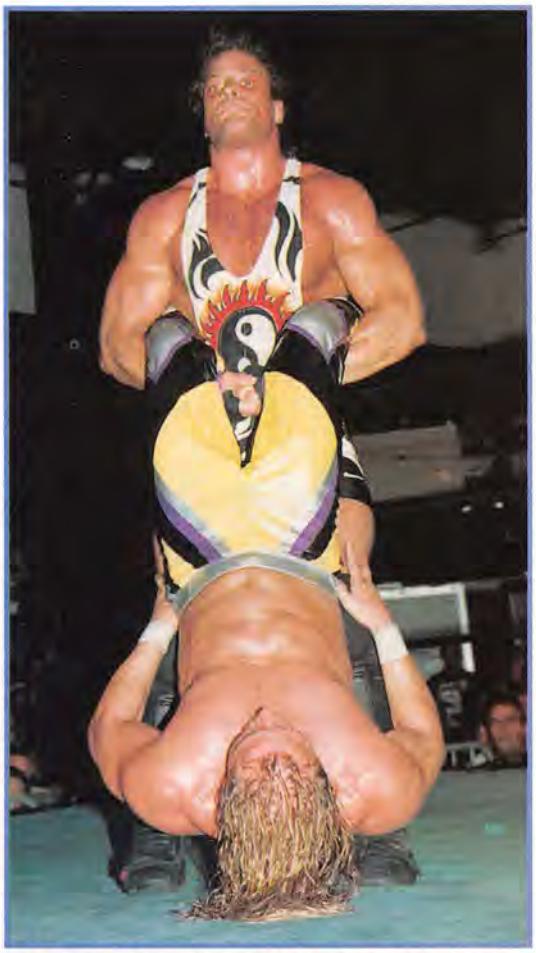
VAN DAM: I'm with you on that, and if I thought I'd prefer their style, I would want to go to the WWF. Like I said, I like wrestling for 30 minutes, 35 minutes. I like it when at the end

of my match, I've got beer and dirt all over me from being out in the crowd fighting, I've got bruises, I've got blood, I've got my opponent's blood on my outfit, my hair's all over the place, and our bodies are all broken up. Then, when I finally pin the guy, the fans chant, "Whole F'n Show." That's my payback. That's what makes me feel good about what I do. Those fans are telling me that I've given them their money's worth. They paid and came to see me and they appreciate the hard work and energy I put in to the match. I would be miserable wrestling in the WWF three minutes a night, jobbing to a girl who's squirting me with a fire extinguisher. That's not what I'm interested in doing. I've become symbolic of a certain kind of work rate, and I enjoy the fact that I can live up to it.

KREWDA: With ECW's limited talent roster, there must some fear of stagnation. Are you confident Paul E. can deliver opponents who are physically capable and creatively interesting enough to maintain the standard you've set for yourself?

VAN DAM: I am definitely aware of the possibility of stagnating, but I wouldn't call it a fear. I see a lot of turnaround in our company as well. Besides the fact that guys pack it up and leave every once in a while to go to another company, we also have new guys coming in a lot. I think that will always keep the company from becoming too routine. I'm always worrying about becoming routine or too predictable to the point where I'm no longer entertaining. They call me the most popular wrestler in ECW history. They call me the most athletically gifted wrestler in the biz. I'm out there being conceited, arrogant, pointing my thumbs at "The Whole F'n Show," telling you that I'm the best, that no one else gives me a run for my money. This is what I'm about, yet the fans appreciate it now. Several months ago, if I were wrestling someone they liked, they'd dislike me for pointing at myself, for boasting, for saying that I'm the best. Eventually, they gave me credit for being the only wrestler who lives up to being as good as he says he is. I try to keep it interesting by coming up with new moves. Of course, I'm wrestling different people all the time. I can't see myself becoming too stagnant in the viewers' eyes, and besides, we got Paul Heyman to keep things interesting.

I think what you're asking is, "After you win the World title, where will you go from there?" I've always considered being the top guy in the company and having the television belt a good place to be. My next step? With our company growing so quickly, I would enjoy a title reign while everyone's looking at ECW, when all the heads are turned toward us. It may take having me as the heavyweight champ to make the heads turn toward us. That's why every time I'm in the ring, I'm not just performing for the people who are used to seeing me; I'm thinking there's someone in that crowd who's never seen me before, and this is my chance to give them their first impression. That's still the attitude I have when I get in the ring. Hopefully, that, and the creative ideas of Paul Heyman, and the attitude and atmosphere of ECW will keep everything going strong.



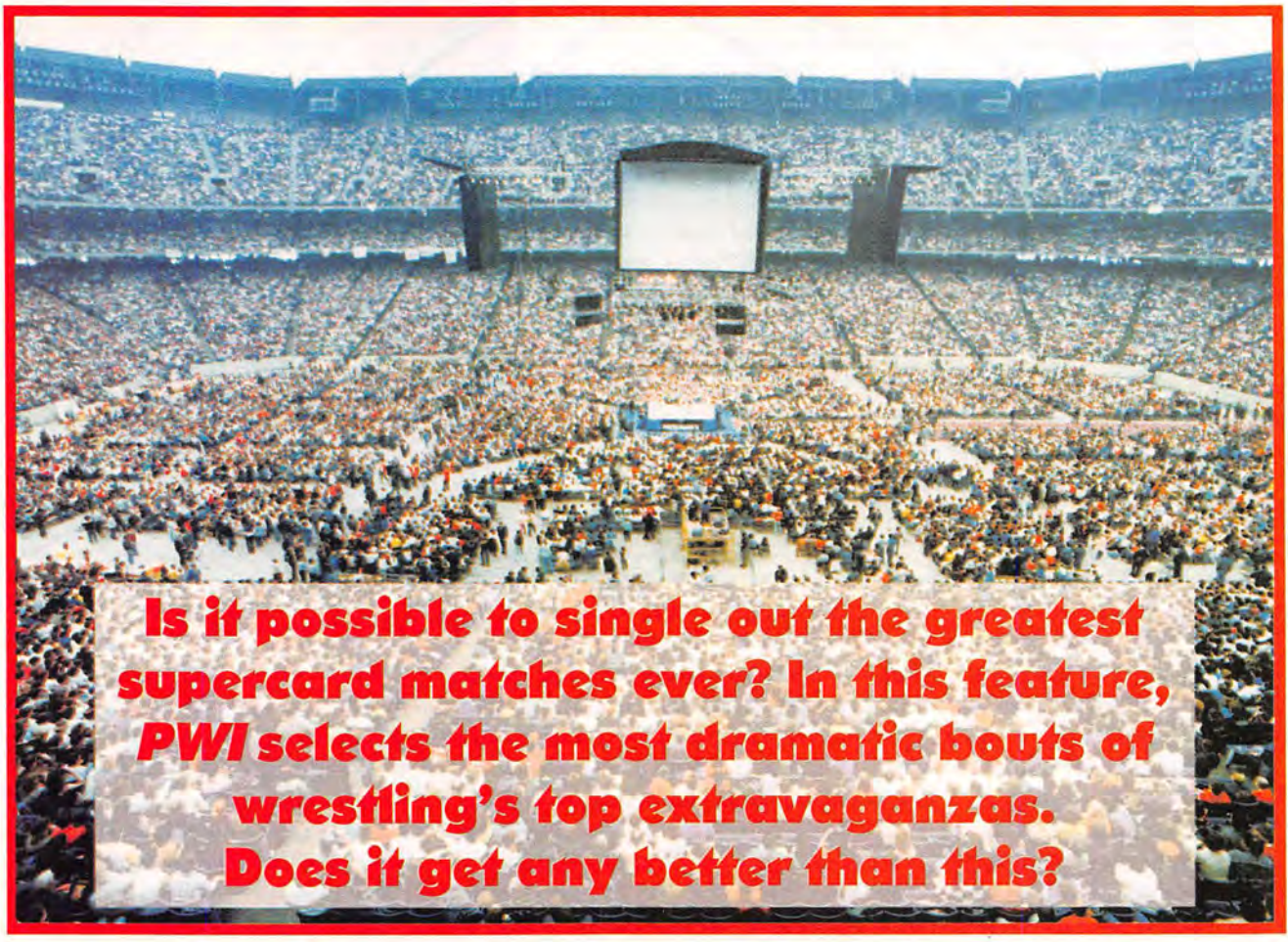
The first ECW match broadcast on TNN was Van Dam vs. Lynn—a true testament to the quality of competition in ECW. However, Van Dam believes TNN can do a better job of promoting the federation.

KREWDA: You've already explained how ECW has transformed itself from an indy-sized promotion to a powerhouse, but what do you see as the company's next challenge?

VAN DAM: At this point, I'm not exactly sure what the next step will be, because the last few have been so obvious. Everybody was excited about the ECW magazine. When the action figures came out, that was a very exciting time. Then there was Acclaim with the video games—a huge step for the company. The TNN deal, of course, was the biggest out of all of them. I know Acclaim has the fourth game planned, so they will keep releasing a new ECW game whenever the time is appropriate. That alone will keep the ECW name out there. At this point right now, there are so many rumors. I don't know what's true. I was hearing that *Smackdown* might go to TNN, and if they do, ECW was getting off TNN and going to USA or UPN or Fox. So although these may not be the next immediate steps, they may take place somewhere down the line, and if they do, they'll certainly be something to look forward to as far as positive change. I have to say, if we were not on TNN and we were on USA, that would definitely be a positive change. If we were not on Friday night, but on a different night of the week, that would be a positive

(Continued on page 85)

The DYNAMITE



Is it possible to single out the greatest supercard matches ever? In this feature, *PWI* selects the most dramatic bouts of wrestling's top extravaganzas. Does it get any better than this?

THE IDEA WAS simple, but the task was incredibly difficult. Choosing the 12 greatest supercard matches of all-time is akin to selecting the greatest matches in history because, after all, wrestling's supercards represent the best of the best.

Then comes the next dilemma: What constitutes a supercard? More than 20,000 people in attendance? A pay-per-view show? Any wrestling event with a catchy name? We traced modern-day supercards all the way back to the early-1970s, when several regional promotions would get together and promote supercards at larger-than-usual venues. For the record, if we had to wonder whether it really was a supercard, it didn't qualify.

We can trace the first supercard to the Los Angeles Coliseum on August 27, 1971. Fred Blassie beat Americas champion John Tolos in a non-title main event in front of 25,847 fans. But no matches on that card made our cut. The second supercard, in our estimation, was the Super Bowl of Wrestling. The promoters had a grand vision in mind, to be sure, but not even the main event of North American champion Johnny Powers vs. Johnny Valentine made our list.

Those early ventures were surpassed by a slew of closed-circuit and pay-per-view events that started in the mid-1980s. Starrcade and WrestleMania changed the sport as we once knew it. Pay-per-views, quarterly events for WCW and the

DOZEN 12

PWI Picks The 12 Greatest Supercard Matches Of All-Time!

WWF at one time, are now monthly. The AWA and World Class once held a joint PPV called SuperClash, headlined by Jerry Lawler vs. Kerry Von Erich. ECW began the tradition in March 1997 with Barely Legal and is now promoting PPVs on a bi-monthly basis.

Now that you know the parameters, here are our picks for the 12 greatest supercard matches ever.

1. Rick Steamboat vs. Randy Savage, WrestleMania III (March 29, 1987). Ugly violence transformed into a scientific masterpiece when Intercontinental champion Randy Savage defended against Rick Steamboat at the Pontiac Silverdome. Several weeks earlier, Savage had injured Steamboat's esophagus by jumping off the top rope and ramming "The Dragon's" throat with a timekeeper's bell. Their WrestleMania showdown featured 19 two-counts. Steamboat finally rolled up Savage with a reverse small package for the victory.

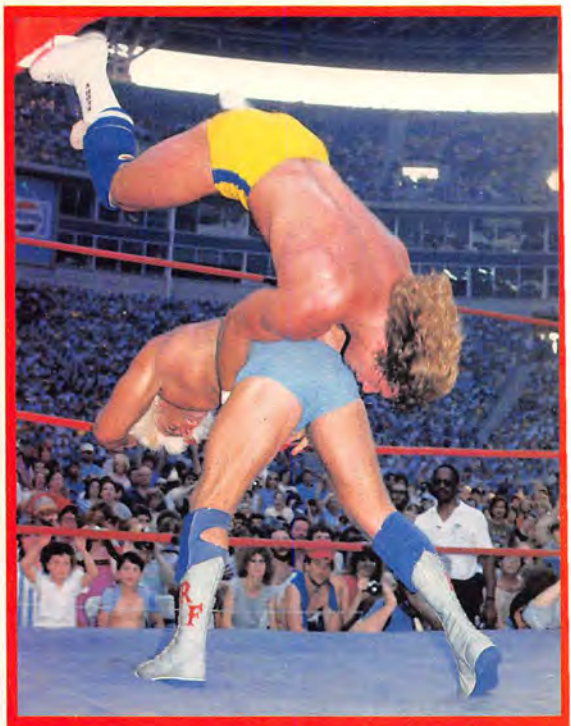
Steamboat vs. Savage from WrestleMania III is the super match of the supercards.

2. Pedro Morales vs. Bruno Sammartino, Shea Stadium (September 30, 1972). It was a miserable day for fans at this outdoor show. They wore raincoats and brought umbrellas to shield them from the drizzling rain. WWWF World champion Pedro Morales had remained on Bruno Sammartino's undercard for more than a decade. After an argument between the two, Morales jumped at the chance to wrestle the mighty Bruno. On that memorable day in Flushing, New York, Pedro proved his excellence by battling "The Living Legend" to a 76-minute curfew draw.

Razor Ramon gets the edge taken off of him by a Shawn Michaels piledriver at WrestleMania X.

3. Razor Ramon vs. Shawn Michaels, WrestleMania X (March 20, 1994). The first ladder match shown on PPV pitted Razor Ramon's size vs. Shawn Michaels' aerial skills. Michaels, who had been stripped of the Intercontinental title six months earlier, returned to the

Hulk Hogan chops away at Andre, making him an unjolly giant at WrestleMania III.



Kerry won one for his brother when he beat Flair in Texas.

WWF and said Ramon's claim to the title was illegitimate. The ladder enabled Michaels to fly higher but crash harder. Ramon retained the championship and finally proved he was no underachiever.

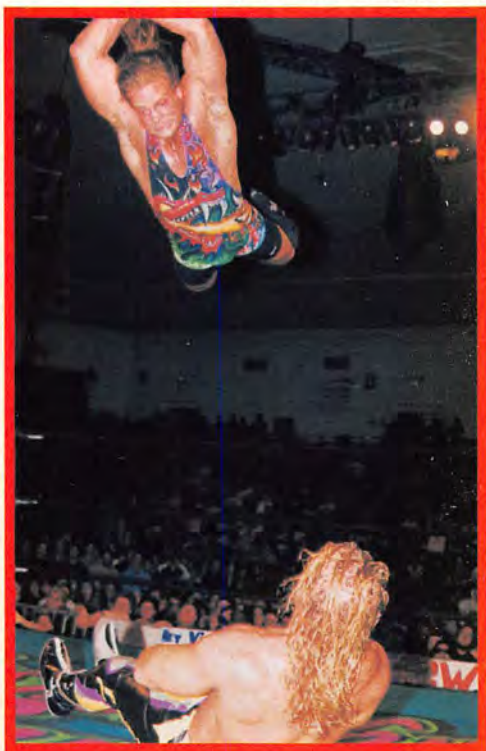
4. Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant, WrestleMania III (March 29, 1987). Aware of the WWF's reluctance to pit fan favorites against each other, the beloved Andre the Giant turned rulebreaker to gain a shot at World champion Hulk Hogan. Their anticipated showdown, which captured the imagination of the mainstream media, was epic. It was controversial, too. Referee Joey Marella counted to three on an Andre pin attempt less than a minute into the match, then declared it a two-count. In the end, Hogan bodyslammed Andre and legdropped him for the victory.

5. Ric Flair vs. Harley Race, Starrcade '83 (November 24, 1983). Harley Race had defeated Ric Flair for the NWA World title in a classic best-of-three-falls match the previous June. The feud between Race and the ex-champ became so bitter that the NWA sanctioned the first World title match to be held inside a steel cage. Flair earned a bloody victory at the NWA's first closed-circuit event and, with his second world title win, ushered in a new era for Jim Crockett Promotions.

6. Rob Van Dam vs. Jerry Lynn, Living Dangerously (March 21, 1999). ECW TV champion Rob Van Dam and his top contender, Jerry Lynn, wowed the crowd with huracanranas, piledrivers, and Van Daminators. They maintained a breakneck pace until the 20-minute time-limit expired. John Finnegan shocked Van Dam by awarding the belt to Lynn via referee's decision. Lynn refused the championship and demanded five more minutes with Van Dam instead. Less than two minutes into overtime, Van Dam pinned Lynn to retain the strap.

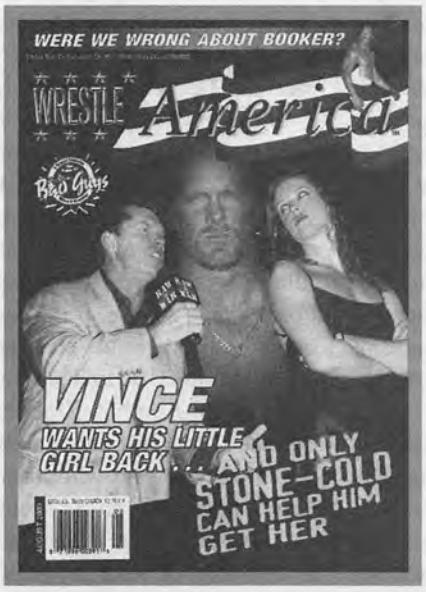
7. Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair, David Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions (May 6, 1984). It was a bittersweet moment for World Class Wrestling. The Parade of Champions drew a record-breaking 43,000 fans to Texas Stadium, but, sadly enough, the card was held in honor of David Von Erich, who had died of an intestinal ailment a few months earlier in Tokyo. Kerry, his younger brother,

(Continued on page 84)



Rob Van Dam soars in his match against Jerry Lynn at Living Dangerously '99.

this month in...



He hasn't said it, but we know **VINCE McMAHON** would do anything to get his little girl back. As much as **STEPHANIE** has hurt him these last few months, he wants her back. Who can help him? Not **SHANE**. Not **THE ROCK**. We think it's a job for **STEVE AUSTIN** ... Barely two years ago, **BOOKER T** was seventh in the *"PWI* 500" and seemingly on the rise. What happened? Were we wrong when we predicted a glorious future for him? ... Don't miss another issue of *Bad Guys*, this time featuring our ranking of the bad girls of wrestling!

All this—and much more!—in the August 2000 issue of ***Wrestle America***

SPECIAL ISSUE!

Don't laugh at what you're about to read, because, well, it's true! **KURT ANGLE** will be hotter than **THE ROCK** in six months. You might hate this Olympic hero now, but you will grow to love him. We'll explain! ... Can **LEX LUGER** really trust **ELIZABETH**? Maybe. But he ought to read up on Liz' history before making up his mind. We'll present that history to you ... You won't want to miss the special section in which we ask your favorite stars some personal and offbeat questions! It's *always* a great read!

All this—and much more!—in the July 2000 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***

WWF vs. WCW THE MONDAY NIGHT WAR

By Harry Burkett

It's the WWF, y'all ... As early as this fall, the WWF could leave its cushy home at the USA Network for a revamped Nashville Network, which is owned by CBS Cable. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, CBS has made a strong bid for WWF programming, including a very lucrative a $100-million equity stake. USA Network would have the opportunity to match any offer and thus retain WWF programming, but industry experts predict CBS will win out.

Apparently, CBS wants the WWF to provide signature programs that will draw new viewers to its cable channel. This move probably wouldn't affect *Smackdown*, since UPN is owned by Viacom, and Viacom is looking to purchase CBS. Some observers were speculating that a WWF-CBS partnership a natural, citing ideas such as the XFL on CBS or UPN. The WWF announced on March 29, however, that it had signed a deal with NBC to carry the XFL in prime time on Saturday nights.

CBS has reduced TNN's country music programming and added old CBS shows and original action-adventure series such as *Dead Man's Gun* and *18 Wheels Of Justice*. Hopes are dim for *Rollerjam*, which fails to capture a broad audience despite the fact that significant money and effort have been put into it. The Nashville Network's name will probably be changed before the fall schedule is announced.

All this begs a question: What would happen to ECW? Would it be forced to give up its Friday night program? In all likelihood, yes. Although that may sound like bad news, it might be an incredible opportunity for ECW to move to the USA Network. Certainly, USA which has had a 17-year relationship with the WWF, would do more to promote ECW than TNN has. A move to USA would give ECW the chance to capture some WWF viewers and improve its broadcast production.

A gritty documentary ... *Beyond The Mat*, the documentary directed by Barry Blaustein, opened nationwide on March 17. Produced by Imagine Entertainment, Ron Howard's production company, *Beyond The Mat* provides a realistic view of pro wrestling without the assumptions and condescension that characterize coverage by the mainstream media.

Blaustein spent three years working on the film (including a meeting with *PWI* editors at the magazine's Ambler, Pennsylvania, offices), which is receiving rave reviews from wrestling insiders and movie critics alike. It focuses on the history and marketing resurgence of the sport, but emphasizes the lonely day-to-day lives of wrestlers traveling on the road. Even more effectively, the film depicts the long-term physical toll that wrestling careers take on competitors' bodies.

Rikishi Phatu and Triple-H's match on the March 6 *Raw* ruined any chance of a significant audience watching Jeff Jarrett introduce The Wall as his tag team partner for his match with Sid Vicious and Vampiro on the *Nitro* overrun.

Mick Foley and Terry Funk are among the wrestlers prominently featured, and with good reason. Few other wrestlers have pursued their careers with such gusto and reckless abandon. The film zooms in on a hysterical Collette Foley, Mick's wife, ushering her kids out of the arena as her husband receives 11 chair shots from The Rock at the 1999 Royal Rumble. Blaustein's cameras take film-goers into the office of an orthopedic surgeon who informs Terry Funk that his knee must be replaced.

The saddest part of the documentary is the story of Jake Roberts. The 20-year veteran had retired in 1995 to devote his life to Christianity. The lure of wrestling brought him back shortly after, and he resurfaced in the WWF preaching the virtues of clean living. Unfortunately, the mobile lifestyle got to Roberts, and he resumed his cocaine habit. The film shows a distraught Roberts talking about how he needs wrestling to pay for his addiction. While we don't know whether Roberts is using drugs today, *Beyond The Mat* depicted a man who was in serious trouble not long ago.

Vince McMahon, who cooperated with Blaustein during the early stages of the film, must not approve of the final product. McMahon blocked the use of WWF wrestlers' names for promotion of the documentary, including posters and movie trailers, and would not allow TV ads for the film to run during WWF programs.

Wrestling on Larry King ... Speaking of *Beyond The Mat*, Larry King devoted an entire hour to pro wrestling on March 17. Blaustein, Foley, and Roddy Piper were guests in

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS (Note: Each ratings point represents 750,000 households.)

FEBRUARY 28

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.4	7.2	6.5 (6.5*)
Nitro	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.2	—	—	—	—	2.7	2.6 (2.1*)

*Head-to-head composite

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **Following the previous night's No Way Out, *Raw* started very strong by scoring a 6.7 in its first two segments. Shane McMahon and The Big Show confronted Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley and WWF champ Triple-H in the first. Even with that momentum on the WWF's side, it's surprising that Jeff Jarrett-Vampiro did so poorly with a 2.0. The line of the evening belonged to Kurt Angle as he addressed the New Jersey/New York crowd: "Unlike Darryl Strawberry, the only thing I'm addicted to is winning championships."**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

MARCH 6

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.7	5.8	6.0	5.9	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.8	7.2	6.4 (5.9*)
Nitro	2.5	2.9	3.2	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.7	—	—	—	—	2.8	2.8 (2.5*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: Raw **made a huge jump during *Nitro's* overrun, going from a 5.9 (8Q) to a 7.2 (9Q). Chris Jericho-Kurt Angle, at 5.9, remained more than three points above the Terry Funk-Dustin Rhodes brawl. Triple-H vs. Rikishi wiped out *Nitro's* overrun, which featured Jeff Jarrett and The Wall vs. WCW champ Sid Vicious and Vampiro. At this point, no one in WCW is popular enough to hot-shot *Nitro* in any segment.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

MARCH 13

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	7.2	6.3 (6.1*)
Nitro	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.2	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.0	—	—	—	—	2.5	2.6 (2.6*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: Nitro **sunk to even lower depths this week, losing to *Walker, Texas Ranger,* which scored a 3.0. It also slipped below the 2.0 mark with Terry Funk-Brian Knobs. Dustin Rhodes attacked Funk after the match. Surprisingly, the Funk-Rhodes feud hasn't translated into ratings points. *Raw* finished with another amazing overrun, reaching 7.2 for the second consecutive week. This time, it was The Rock defeating The Big Show—with help from the returning Vince McMahon—to earn a WWF title shot at WrestleMania 2000.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

MARCH 20

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.7	6.4	6.0	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.4	7.3	6.2 (6.0*)
Nitro	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.3	1.8	1.7	2.4	—	—	—	—	2.9	2.5 (2.1*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **Two disastrous segments that slipped below 2.0 (6Q and 7Q) dragged down *Nitro's* overall numbers. *Raw* had another successful outing, more than doubling *Nitro's* ratings. Raw has rebounded since a slight dip during February, thanks to the buildup to WrestleMania. *Raw* was capped by WWF champ Triple-H winning a three-way with The Rock and The Big Show. Linda McMahon introduced Mick Foley at the end of the segment and announced he would compete in the four-way WWF title match at WrestleMania.**

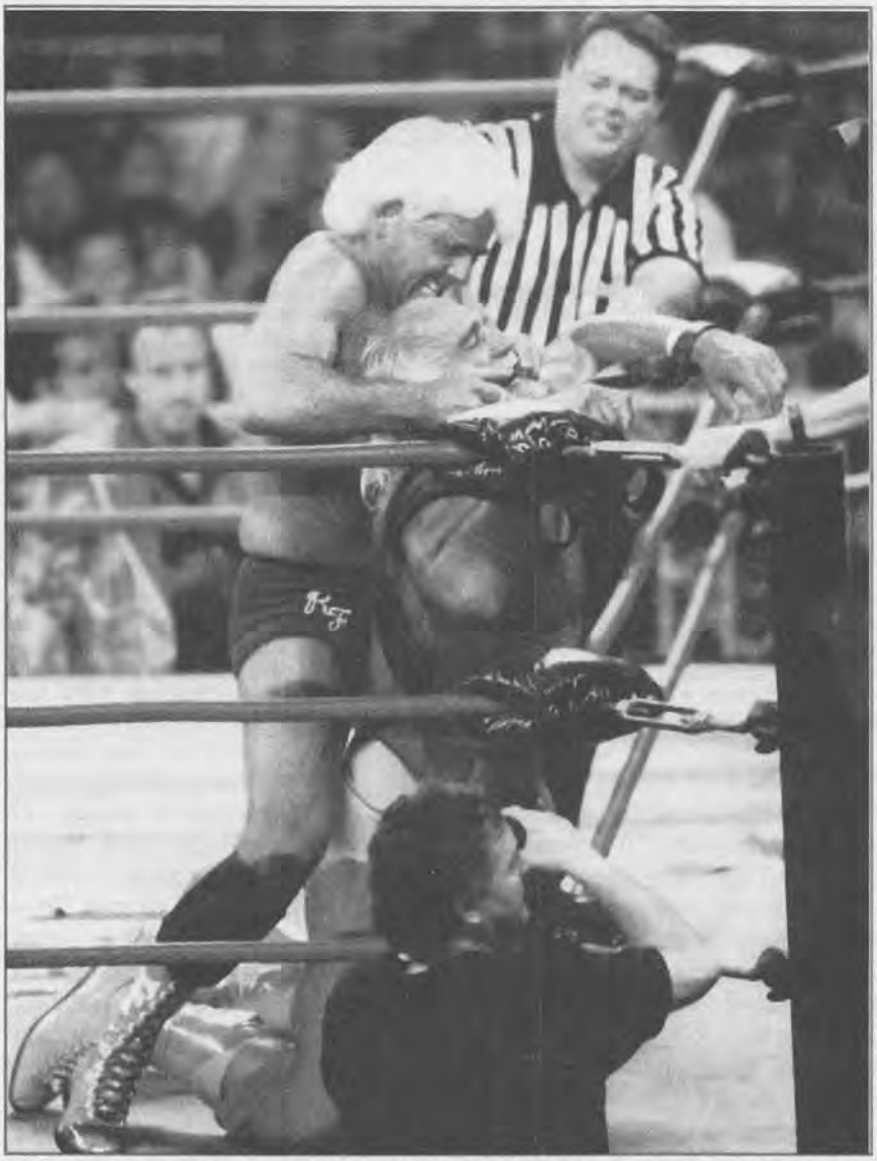
the studio, while Hulk Hogan appeared via satellite. The wrestlers discussed how they broke into the sport and whether they still have a passion for the business. Foley said that all the chair shots, falls, and barbed-wire matches were worth the adulation he enjoys today.

Piper was more cynical. He asked Foley if he thought fans, the WWF, or Vince McMahon would remember the sacrifices he had made. Although their exchange was good-natured, Piper stressed the foolhardy nature of Foley's actions. When King asked if he had a passion for the sport, Piper replied, "I have a passion for feeding my family." Citing his tough adolescence on the streets, Piper added, "If it weren't for wrestling, I'd probably be dead."

Hogan was more positive about wrestling and emphasized its benefits. "It beats working a real 9-to-5 job," he said. King, who doesn't consider himself a wrestling fan, stated that he developed a profound respect for what wrestlers do on a nightly basis.

***The Rock on* SNL ...** Well, it wasn't just The Rock, yet he was the man advertised to appear on the March 18 edition of *Saturday Night Live* on NBC. He performed a hilarious monologue but was heckled by members of the audience, namely Mick Foley, Triple-H, and The Big Show.

All four wrestlers, along with Vince McMahon, appeared on the program. Vince delivered *SNL's* keynote introduction, "Live from New York, it's *Saturday Night!*" in typical McMahon-esque fashion. Some viewers think The Big Show, who revealed a much lighter side, actually stole the show. Since this was the highest rated *SNL* since May 1999, the struggling comedy show might recruit more WWF stars in the future. □



Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan have treated wrestling fans to some stellar matches throughout the course of their careers, but their strap match at Uncensored was far from stellar. It was basically a lousy rerun.

CENSOR IT ... PLEASE! While The Rock, Triple-H, Big Show, Mick Foley, and Vince McMahon are showing off their senses of humor and creativity—not to mention their raging success—on *Saturday Night Live*, WCW is showing off Hulk Hogan's bald pate and Ric Flair's not-so-rippling stomach. After being assigned to write the "Supercards" section in this issue, I asked Editor-in-Chief Dave Lenker, "Do you want me to write about Hogan-Flair before their Uncensored match, or should I wait until after the card?"

I was only half-joking. Hogan and Flair wrestled each other for the first time in the WWF in 1992, and the match has only been revisited about 10 billion times since then. I, for one, know it by heart. Hogan dominates the early portions of the match with his power, Flair makes some kind of comeback and has Hogan on the ropes, and the "Hulkster" makes a "stunning" comeback to win the match. WCW is also retreating us to Hogan vs. Sid Vicious, circa 1992. These days, the only things older than some of WCW's wrestlers are WCW's matches.

Remember three or four years ago, when WCW had all the stars and all the ratings? The WWF was selling itself like Pepsi, as the choice of the new generation. The WWF was saying that while WCW had the big stars, it had the future stars. Of course, that doesn't do very much for you when you're trying to get people to buy your pay-per-views today, tomorrow, or the next day.

But now it looks as if the WWF had the right idea all along. The general public has grown tired of Hogan, Flair, Sting, and Lex Luger, and has turned its attention to the next generation stars who have become the this generation stars: The Rock, Triple-H, Steve Austin, Kurt Angle, Mankind, etc. Ironically, the WWF has even taken two of WCW's former young talents, The Giant and Chris Jericho, and transformed them into two of its megastars, The Big Show and Y2J.

Fact: The Rock's guest appearance on *Saturday Night Live* attracted more viewers than any other edition of *SNL*

Maybe Pepsi should use The Rock—the new generation's choice—to pitch its product. While WCW struggles mightily with older stars getting most of the main events, the WWF, with stars like The Rock, cruises happily along.

this year and was the highest-rated show since Monica Lewinsky made a cameo appearance last May.

Fact: The early estimates on the buy rate for WCW's Uncensored had it coming in at about 0.13, which would be the lowest ever for the federation. Less than 200 households bought the pay-per-view in Chicago (the site of WCW's April PPV, Spring Stampede).

Fact: Hogan's victory over Flair at Uncensored resulted in almost no reaction from the crowd at American Airlines Arena in Miami. Hogan kept on holding his hand to his ear, asking for more noise, but most of the fans just turned around and walked out the building. That had to be the most embarrassing moment in Hogan's career.

Oh, wait a second, the "Hulkster" doesn't get embarrassed. Clearly, he doesn't realize that he's yesterday's news, a *former* superstar. Hogan had his second coming a few years ago with the NWO, but that's over. In this world, you're lucky to get two chances, let alone three. Hogan has run out.

Listen, it wouldn't be fair to blame all of WCW's problems on Hogan. He's been absent more than he's been around for the past year or two, and WCW's TV ratings and attendance have been consistently bad regardless. But it's pretty clear that wrestling fans aren't watching WCW because they're tired of watching the old guys, including Hogan and Flair, and not necessarily excluding Luger, Sting, and Vicious.

By the way, I've seen it written that WCW should have given a bigger push to Scott Steiner. Well, Scott Steiner may be interesting to watch, but he isn't a new star. Scott Steiner and his brother were winning WCW World tag team titles in the 1980s, when The Rock was still a teenager.

Right now, WCW's only hope is to hand the reigns to Bill Goldberg and pray he can recapture the magic that carried him to superstardom in 1998 and early-'99. Perhaps that magic has been lost forever, but a relatively young guy like Goldberg is WCW's best chance. Maybe the WCW powers recall that Goldberg was as hot as Steve Austin at one time, and that was pretty damn hot.

So where does wrestling go from here, now that the so-called season of the supercards is over? Is ECW ready to pass WCW and become the number-two federation in North America? A few years ago, that very thought would have drawn raucous laughter. Now it's a real possibility. And what will become of WCW? Attendance is way down. Pay-per-view buy rates are way down. TV ratings are way down.

It's time to think the unthinkable: Could WCW go the way of the now-defunct AWA? Let's face it, Ted Turner and the Time Warner people don't like losing money, and Turner doesn't like being second-best, no less third-best. If changes aren't made to improve WCW, he could dump it.

The WWF is cool. *Saturday Night Live* might be a horrible show, but it invites only cool hosts and cool musical guests. You don't get on *Saturday Night Live* by being a star of the past.

I know the perfect place for Hulk Hogan: Branson, Missouri. It's where the biggest names in entertainment from the 1960s, '70s, and '80s have set up shop. Acts from Branson, Missouri, don't end up on *Saturday Night Live*. □

RATED X

FOR EXTREME VIOLENCE!

YOU WON'T FIND THIS KIND OF ACTION ON RAW OR NITRO—
JAPAN'S WILDEST CARNAGE IS
BEYOND HARDCORE!!

EACH 2-HOUR VIDEO FEATURES FIRE, EXPLOSIONS, BARBED WIRE, THUMBTACKS, SPIKES, AXES, GLASS & BLOOD GALORE!!!

WITNESS THE CRAZIEST STARS IN THE BUSINESS—CACTUS, ONITA, FUNK, POGO, THE SHEIK, SABU, THE HEADHUNTERS AND MANY OTHERS *RIPPING EACH OTHER TO SHREDS!!*

- **INSANE JAPAN VOL. 1 - $30**
- **INSANE JAPAN VOL. 2 - $30**
- **INSANE JAPAN VOL. 3 - $30**

SPECIAL OFFER
ALL 3 VIDEOS ONLY $75!

***Not Ordering Now? – Send $5 For HUGE VIDEO LIST (& FREE PIX!!)**
Checks payable to:
Howard Baum
333-09 Ives Dairy Rd.
N. Miami Bch., FL 33179

win or lose or draw

By Harry Burkett

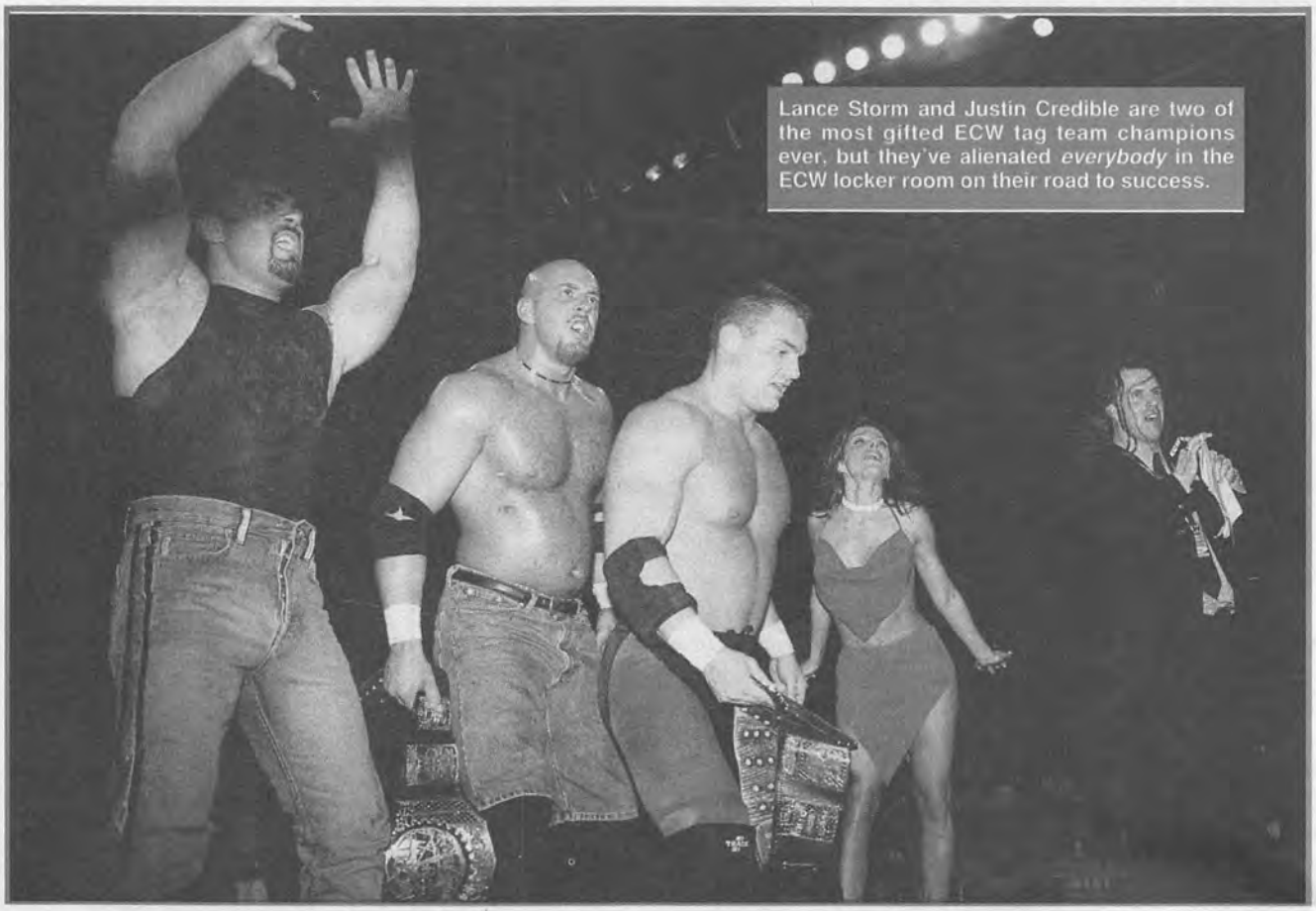
THE IMPACT PLAYERS are making the wrong kind of impact in ECW. Hey, I give Justin Credible and Lance Storm all the credit in the world. They're tough, they're talented, and they have a lot of guts. But they must also come to a realization: It's only a matter of time before ECW's factions get together and run them right out of the federation.

Why would Credible and Storm be worth all that trouble? It's because The Impact Players have been making life pure hell for just about everyone else in ECW.

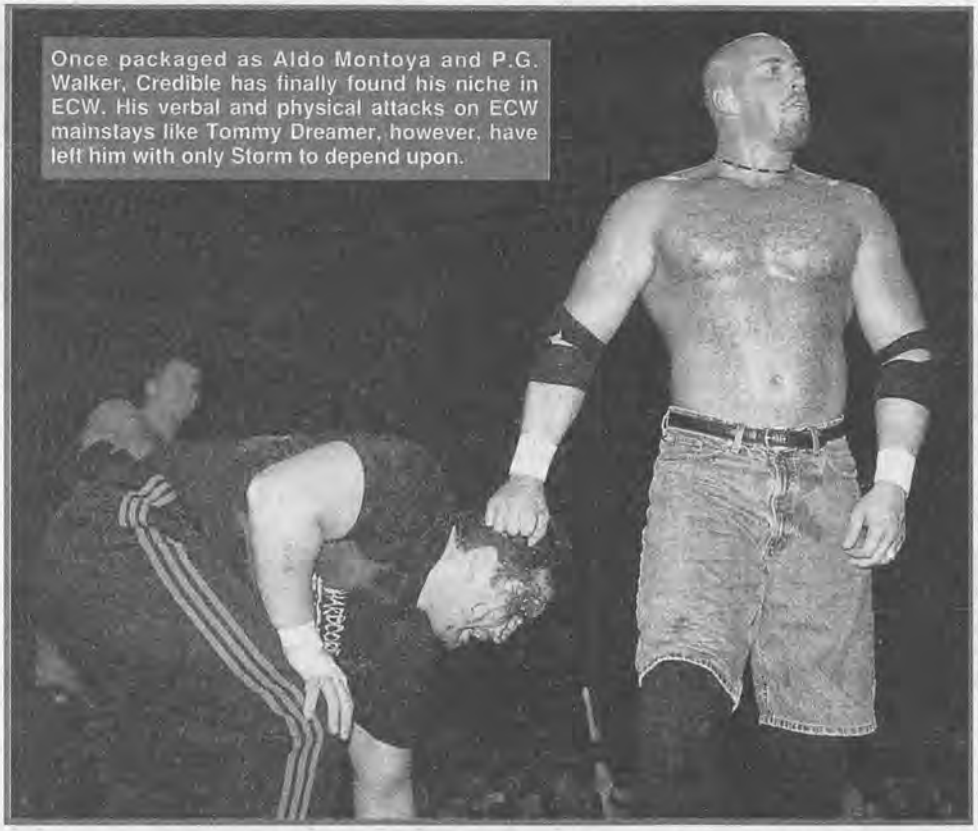
It was only two years ago that Credible was resorting to desperate measures to live down his previous gimmicks. In the WWF, he had been packaged as Aldo Montoya, "The Portuguese Man O' War." He wore a half-mask and never graduated from the midcard level. When the WWF sent him to Memphis, he joined PG-13 and became P.G. Walker. Neither of these hokey personalities endeared him to ECW fans, who viewed him as the antithesis of hardcore.

At the same time, Lance Storm was trying to live down his pushover image. He and Chris Candido were a bickering pair of ECW tag team champions for six months. Candido dominated the relationship and berated Storm in public. Storm thought he would get a weak measure of revenge by hanging with Candido's girl, Tammy Lynn Sytch. Before long, Sytch smashed a cookie sheet over Storm's head and rejoined Candido.

Justin Credible and Lance Storm were battling the "wimp factor" and losing. In a place like ECW, that's the equivalent of a death sentence. But, continuing with the prison analogy, there's a bit of advice often



Lance Storm and Justin Credible are two of the most gifted ECW tag team champions ever, but they've alienated *everybody* in the ECW locker room on their road to success.



Once packaged as Aldo Montoya and P.G. Walker, Credible has finally found his niche in ECW. His verbal and physical attacks on ECW mainstays like Tommy Dreamer, however, have left him with only Storm to depend upon.

given to convicts soon after they don their uniforms. They're told to get in a fight with the first smart-aleck they encounter. By proving their toughness within their first few days in the prison yard, they can save another five to 10 years of grief.

Throughout history, personal insecurities have driven men to commit extraordinary (and dastardly) feats. The same is true with Credible and Storm.

Credible was the first to take the initiative. When ECW allotted a moment of silence in memory of Tommy Dreamer's grandfather, Credible interrupted the silence and ridiculed Dreamer and his grandfather, a lifelong wrestling fan. Soon after, Credible broke Mikey Whipwreck's leg.

Impressed by Credible's newfound notoriety, Storm and manager Dawn Marie joined Credible and his manager, Jason. The Impact Players were born.

Credible took credit for running The Sandman and Shane Douglas out of ECW. Together, The Impact Players double-teamed their mutual enemies. By the summer of 1999, Storm had injured Tommy Dreamer's back, resulting in herniated disks that sidelined him for months. Meanwhile, Credible obtained a court order that banned Sabu from competing in the U.S. for an indefinite period. When Sabu returned at Anarchy Rulz, Credible dealt with the Bombay madman the old-fashioned way: He beat him convincingly.

As 1999 became 2000, chants of "Al-do! Al-do!" faded away. For Storm, Candido and Sytch were faint memories. They weren't defined by their enemies anymore. They had become major players in ECW on their own terms. Their strategy of dismantling hardcore icons to gain acceptance was successful.

What else do they want?

Somehow, The Impact Players have lost sight of their game plan. Targeting ECW's heroes was a sound strategy, but in 2000, Credible and Storm have embarked on a tour of indiscriminate violence. Infuriating everyone for no reason is their new *modus operandi.*

Was it necessary to handcuff Raven crucifixion-style and beat him with a Singapore cane? Was it necessary to renew their war with Sandman immediately upon his return to ECW? Was it necessary to belittle Danny Doring and Roadkill, inspiring them to increase their intensity? Was it necessary to target Tommy Dreamer again?

Absolutely not. And, clearly, The Impact Players haven't endeared themselves to TNN censors, either. Their graphic remarks on *ECW On TNN* have left more than a few TNN executives boiling.

There's at least one thing upon which the entire ECW locker room can agree: Credible and Storm are out of control. Everyone, from The Sandman to Super Crazy, would concur. For those sick individuals who approve of the Players' tactics, including Rob Van Dam and Steve Corino, they are worried Credible and Storm could become too powerful to overcome ... if they aren't stopped now.

The Impact Players finally succeeded in defeating Dreamer and Raven for the ECW World tag team title. But their reign didn't last long. They brutally attacked Masato Tanaka in an ambush initiated by Dawn Marie. As a result, Tanaka opted to join Dreamer in his bid for the tag title that night. The Players paid dearly with a championship loss.

They regained their title at Living Dangerously, however. In a six-man elimination tag team match, Credible and Storm first eliminated the champs, Awesome and Raven, and then Dreamer and Tanaka. It was four deadly enemies against two, but The Impact Players still managed to come out on top.

They should get used to not having the numbers in their favor. *All* of ECW will be gunning for them soon. □

PHONE: 1-401-946-5720
FAX: 1-401-946-8492
E-Mail: FigInc@aol.com

THE WRESTLING SUPERSTORE™

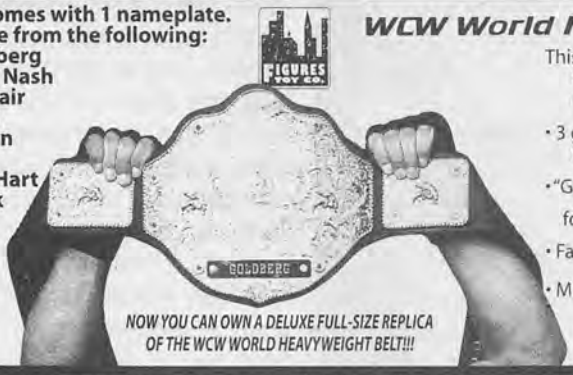
Address: FIGURES INC.
P.O. Box 19482, Johnston, RI 02919

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. EST
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

www.wrestlingsuperstore.com™

Belt Comes with 1 nameplate.
Choose from the following:
- Goldberg
- Kevin Nash
- Ric Flair
- Sting
- Hogan
- DDP
- Bret Hart
- Blank

WCW World Heavyweight Championship Belt Replica



NOW YOU CAN OWN A DELUXE FULL-SIZE REPLICA OF THE WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT BELT!!!

This exact-scale replica of the WCW World Heavyweight Championship belt measures 4 feet 8 inches long & is made of simulated leather the exact thickness of the original. It features:

- 3 goldtone metal medallions cast from the original–the center medallion measures 12 inches tall!
- "Goldberg" gold metal nameplate is interchangeable for future use
- Fastened by 8 snaps on each side
- Medallions are ornamented by 22 faux ruby studs

OUR PRICE: $150.00 each

©2000 World Championship Wrestling

$150.00 EACH

WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
NWO Red VERSION • #WCW16
NWO Black VERSION • #WCW17

Kids Size

$75.00 EACH

WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
A) KIDS VERSION #WCW18
B) NWO KIDS VERSION (red or black)
C) U.S. Heavyweight
D) Cruiserweight
E) Tag Team
F) Television

WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
#WCW22

$150.00 EACH

Mini

WCW World Heavyweight Championship Belt Replica

$30.00 each

- Made from same material as full size replica
- Measures 12 inches long
- Center Plate measures 3 1/2 inches high
- Use as a wrsitband or desktop display

WCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
#WCW20
Choose from:
1) New 1999 Belt
2) Old Belt Version

$150.00 EACH

$150.00 EACH

WCW WORLD TELEVISION CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
#WCW21

$150.00 EACH

WCW UNITED STATES HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
#WCW19

Officially Licensed ECW Championship Replica Belts

B)

$175.00 each
or (any 2 for $300.00)

A)

A) ECW World Heavyweight Replica Belt
B) ECW Tag Team Replica Belt
C) ECW Television Replica Belt

C)

Each belt is an exact scale replica, measures 4 feet 2 inches long.
Weighs approximately 4 pounds.
The strap is made of simulated leather.
Center medallion measures 10.5 inches tall on the World and TV belt.
It measures 9.5 inches tall on the Tag Team belt.
Belt and strap are exact thickness and plates are 2 MM thick.
World Belt has simulated orange snake skin on back. Tag has simulated purple snake skin

©2000 Extreme Championship Wrestling

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIGURES, INC.
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED, JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT
30 DAY RETURN MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

PHONE NUMBERS:
ORDERS/QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
1-401-946-5720
FAX ORDERS (24 HOURS) TO
1-401-946-8492

- ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
- ALL ITEMS ARE IN STOCK
- INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED (ADD $25.00 S/H PER TOTAL ORDER)

U.S. SHIPPING IS $5.00 PER TOTAL ORDER
(OVER $100.00 ADD $7.00)

80 PAGE FULL COLOR WRESTLING CATALOG:
SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY
FULL COLOR VIDEO CATALOG:
SEND $1.00 FOR A COPY

PHONE: 1-401-946-5720
FAX: 1-401-946-8492
E-Mail: FigInc@aol.com

Address: FIGURES INC.
P.O. Box 19482, Johnston, RI 02919

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. EST
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

FIGURES Inc.
THE WRESTLING SUPERSTORE™

www.wrestlingsuperstore.com™

LEGENDS OF WRESTLING
6 INCH ACTION FIGURES

- Highly detailed with 3 points of articulation
- Compatible with other 6 inch action figures on the market now
- Limited to only 10,000 figures and each figure comes mint on card

COMING SOON!

Series 5 - Tony Atlas
Series 6 - Iron Sheik
Series 7 - Bruno Sammartino

LEGENDS OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

Choose from:
- -Regular King Kong Bundy
- -Blood Splattered King Kong Bundy
- -Regular Abdullah The Butcher
- -Blood Splattered Abdullah The Butcher
- -Regular Killer Kowalski
- -Blood Splattered Killer Kowalski
- -Regular Ivan Putski
- -Blood Splattered Ivan Putski

$8.00 each -OR- 2 for $15.00

NEW WWF ACTION FIGURES-WWF SUPERSTARS
By Jakks Toys (1996-1999) New line of WWF Action Figures based on some of the most popular WWF Superstars. Each figure has a "**Bone Crunching Sound**" when posed. These action figures are 6" tall.

ALL JAKKS FIGURES ARE $15.00 EACH
OR (ANY 6 FOR $75.00)

Choose from:

1st Series
Shawn Michaels #1 (Blue Pants!
Bret Hart #1 (BlackShirt/Pink Pants)

2nd Series
VaderBret Hart #2 (Red Shirt/Black Pants)
•Shawn Michaels (Red Outfit)

3rd Series
Bret Hart #3•Shawn Michaels #3•Sid•British Bulldog
Ahmed Johnson •Mankind

4th Series
Jerry "The King" Lawler•Faarooq
Justin Hawk Bradshaw•Vader #2•HHH

5th Series
•Sycho Sid•Rocky Maivia
Flash Funk•Ken Shamrock•Savio Vega

6th Series
Marc Mero•Jeff Jarrett•HHH
Mark Henry•Steve Blackman

S.T.O.M.P. Series 1
Ahmed Johnson•Undertaker•Crush
Ken Shamrock•Steve Austin

S.T.O.M.P. Series 2
Steve Austin•Chyna•Rocky Maivia•Mosh•Thrasher • Owen

Signature Series 1
Hawk #2•Animal #2•Goldust #2• Mankind #2
Hunter Hearst Helmsley #2

Signature Series 2
Dude Love•Kane•Undertaker• Road Dog
B. A. Billy Gunn • Shawn Michaels

Slammers Series 1
New Undertaker •Goldust •Bret Hart•Mankind•Faarooq
Steve Austin

Slammers Series 2
Brian Pillman•Dude Love•Kane•Shawn Michaels
Taka Michinoku

Shotgun Saturday Night
Undertaker Savio Vega •Rocky Maivia •Hawk
Animal • Henry Godwin• •Phineas Godwin

Ringside Collection
Sable • Vince McMahon •Sunny •Jim Cornette • Jim Ross •Sgt. Slaughter

Titan Tron Live Series 1
Steve Austin-Rock-Undertaker-Mankind-Road Dogg-Kane

Titan Tron Live Series 2
Big Show-X-Pac-Steve Austin-Rock-Shamrock-Kane

Titan Tron Live Smack Down Series 1
Triple H-X-Pac-Edge-billy Gunn-Gangrel-Shane McMahon

Titan Tron Live Smack Down Series 2
Austin-Edge-Mankind-Road Dogg-Undertaker-HHH

Maximum Sweat 4
Austin-Undertaker-Kane-Road Dogg-Billy Gunn-Droz

Back Talkin Crushers
Austin-Rock-Big Show-Undertaker

Shotgun Saturday Night Series 3
Kurgann-Edge-HHH-Road Dogg-Droz
Stone Cold

7th Series
Venis-Undertaker-Edge-Stone Cold-Dr.Death

Series 8-Team Corporate
Big Boss Man-Michaels-Shane McMahon
The Rock-Shamrock-Kane

Series 9
Big Show-Gangrel-Christian-Bob Holly
Undertaker-Vince McMahon

Fully Loaded Series 1
Kane-HHH-Al Snow-Billy Gunn-Road Dogg
The Rock

Fully Loaded Series 2
Stone Cold-Test-Road Dogg-The Rock
X-Pac-Shane McMahon

Raw Is War
Undertaker-Stone Cold-The Rock-Mankind

Breakdown In Your House
X-Pac-Droz-Stone Cold-Mankind-D'Lo Brown-Goldust

Maximum Sweat Series 1
Undertaker-The Rock-Kane-Stone Cold
Michaels-HHH

$20.00 each or (4 for $75.00)

Tag Team 2 Figure Packs
L.O.D.-New Blackjacks-Headbangers
The Godwinns

Manager Series 2 Packs
Backlund/Sultan-Mankind/Bearer-Mero/Sable-Mason/Crush

2 Tuff 2 Figure Packs
Goldust/Marlena-D.O.A.
Truth Commission

2 Tuff Series 2 2 Figure Packs
Road Dogg/Gunn-Mustafa/Brown-Lawler/Christopher-Jackyl/Kurgann

2 Tuff Series 3 2 Figure Packs
Kane/Mankind-Rock/Owen-Austin/Undertaker-Hawk/Animal

2 Tuff Series 4 2 Figure Packs
Rock/Mankind-Undertaker/Kane-Bossman/Austin-Venis/Billy Gunn

2 Tuff Series 5 2 Figure Packs
Viscera/Undertaker-Rock/Austin-Debra/Jarrett-Billy Gunn/Road Dogg

MONSTER RING
TO FIT 6 INCH JAKKS ACTION FIGURES
$30.00 each

CHAMPIONSHIP BELTS FOR WRESTLING FIGURES
THESE BELTS FIT THE FOLLOWING ACTION FIGURES
LINES:

WWF 4 & 6 INCH ACTION FIGURES
WCW 4 & 7 INCH ACTION FIGURES AND ALL OTHER WRESTLING FIGURES MADE

CHOOSE FROM

SERIES 1
1) World Heavyweight Championship 2) World Tag Team Championship
3) International Championship

SERIES 2
1) Light Heavyweight Championship 2) Intercontinental Championship
3) United States Championship 4) Cruiserweight Championship

SERIES 3
1) TV Championship 2) European Championship 3) Toughman Championship 4) All Japan Championship

SERIES 4
1) Junior Heavyweight 2) 6 Man Tag Team 3) Brass Knuckles Champ 4) North American Champ

SERIES 5
1) Skull Belt 2) Hardcore Belt 3) Women's Belt 4) Snake Venom Belt

WE OFFER THEM IN 3 DIFFERENT WAYS: Buy any single belt for $3.00 each
4 PACK OF BELTS FOR $8.00 CONTAINS: 1 of each
12 PACKS OF BELTS FOR $20.00 CONTAINS: 3 of each.

EXTRA SPECIAL DEAL
40 PACKS OF BELTS for $40.00
You choose the assortment from any Series 1 Series 2 or Series 3
(Simply tell us how many you want of each kind and make sure it totals 40)
MAKE YOUR OWN 4 PACK - $8.00 set of 4 MAKE YOUR OWN 12 PACK - $20.00 set of 12

WRESTLING FIGURE CLOTHING GEAR
Clothes made to fit your favorite 6 inch wrestling figures! Referee Shirt, Yellow Security Jacket, White Paramedic Jacket, Stretchers, Event Staff Jacket, Folding Chairs, Sweatshirts, Towels

Mini Mexican Masks (red, black, or blue)

A) $3.00 each
B) Any 4 for $8.00
C) Any 12 for $20.00

Jakks Grapple Gear
Accessories that go with WWF 6 Inch Action Figures
$20.00 each or (Complete set of any 3 for $50.00)

Series 1
Coffin Match, Commentator Central, Back Alley
Series 2
No Pain, Breakdown, Hardcore Rules
Series 1 Raw Is War
Buried Alive, No DQ, War Zone
Series 3 Raw Live
Street Fight, Boiler Room, Backstage Brawl

JAKKS MINI ACTION RINGS WITH 6 FIGURES

Wrestlemania Action Ring	$25.00 each
Royal Rumble Action Ring	$25.00 each
King of the Ring Action Ring	$25.00 each
Survivor Series Action Ring	$25.00 each
No Mercy Action Ring	$25.00 each
Sudden Threat Action Ring	$25.00 each
Deadly Dungeon Action Ring	$25.00 each
Lethal Ladder Action Ring	$25.00 each

WWF HASBRO 4 INCH ACTION FIGURES
(all mint in package) (1990 - 1994)

All Figures in This Section are $15.00 each.

Headshrinker Samu
Big Boss Man #1
El Matador
Tatanka #1
Big Boss Man #2
I.R.S.
Brutus Beefcake #1
Hacksaw Duggan #1
Undertaker #1

Hacksaw Duggan #2

Ultimate Warrior #3 (Purple Trunks)	$50.00 ea.
Honky Tonk Man	$40.00 ea.
Roddy Piper	$35.00 ea.
Earthquake	$30.00 ea.
Hulk Hogan #3 (with Hulkaplex)	$30.00 ea.
Ted Dibiase #1 (Black Suit)	$30.00 ea.
Greg Valentine	$30.00 ea.
Kamala	$25.00 ea.
Razor Ramon (with Purple Vest)	$25.00 ea.
Jake the Snake Roberts	$20.00 ea.
Ted Dibiase (in Green Outfit)	$20.00 ea.
Ultimate Warrior #2 (White)	$30.00 ea.
Ultimate Warrior #1 (Green Trunks)	$35.00 ea.
Typhoon	$30.00 ea.
Sgt. Slaughter	$30.00 ea.
Randy Savage (King w/ Crown)	$30.00 ea.
Brutus Beefcake #2 (White & Black)	$30.00 ea.
Jimmy Snuka	$30.00 ea.
Crush #1	$25.00 ea.
Hulk Hogan (Gorilla Press)	$20.00 ea.
Hulk Hogan (with Hulkster Hug)	$20.00 ea.
WWF Tag Team 2 Packs (2 Figures in each set)	
The Bushwackers #1 (Luke & Butch)	$20.00 set
The Rockers (Shawn & Marty)	$40.00 set

1996-1999 WWF BEND-EMS
By Just Toys $7.00 each or (any 4 figures for $25.00 or any 10 for $50.00)
These are 5" bendable figures and are MINT in package

1st Series: Diesel Doink Bret Hart Razor Ramon
2nd Series: The Undertaker British Bulldog 123 Kid Mabel
3rd Series: Golddust Shawn Michaels Ahmed Johnson Yokozuna
4th Series: Vader Sunny Marc Mero Psycho Sid
5th Series: Steve Austin Rockly Maivia Mankind Faarooq
6th Series: Hawk Animal Undertaker #2 Hunter Helmsley
7th Series: Patriot Ken Shamrock Owen Hart Crush
8th Series: Kane Chyna Jeff Jarrett Taka
9th Series: Cactus Jack Brian Christopher X-Pac Sable
10th Series: Edge Blackman Road Dogg Billy Gunn
11th Series: Val Venis Godfather Al Snow Vince McMahon
12th Series: Big Snow Undertaker #3 Mankind Boss Man Austin
RARE FIND!!! Lex Luger Bend-Em (on foreign card).....$15.00 each
OFFICIAL WWF SUPERSLAM WRESTLING RING..... $25.00 set

WRESTLING MUSIC - CD & CASSETTE TAPES

WWF The Music Volume 3
Contains 15 Official Theme Songs
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

Steve Austin's Stone Cold Metal Music
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

Hulk Hogan and the Wrestling Boot Band (1995)
10 different songs
CD version 5.00
Cassette version 5.00

WWF The Music Volume 4
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

Bret Hart Wrestling With Shadows
Contains 15 Songs
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

Wrestlemania: The Album
Contains 10 Songs
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

WWF The Music Volume 2
Contains 15 Official Theme Songs
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

WWF Wrestling Album 1985
10 different songs includes "Real American"
CD version 20.00
Cassette version 15.00

WCW Mayhem The Music
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIGURES, INC.
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED, JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT
30 DAY RETURN MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

PHONE NUMBERS:
ORDERS/QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
1-401-946-5720
FAX ORDERS (24 HOURS) TO
1-401-946-8492

- ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
- ALL ITEMS ARE IN STOCK
- INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED (ADD $25.00 S/H PER TOTAL ORDER)

U.S. SHIPPING IS $5.00 PER TOTAL ORDER
(OVER $100.00 ADD $7.00)

80 PAGE FULL COLOR WRESTLING CATALOG: SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY
FULL COLOR VIDEO CATALOG: SEND $1.00 FOR A COPY

arena reports

We encourage promoters and fans to send results to: "Arena Reports," c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Fax results to (215) 540-0146. E-mail results to PWIQueen@aol.com.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

BAYOU LA BATRE—UCW at the Community Center: **Raine Quipone** defeated **Mother Nature's Boy** ... **Tyrone the Dancing Machine** beat **Bobby Joe Body** ... **BSK** beat **The Fifth Ward Posse** ... **Marcel Pringle, Tyrone,** & **Mr. Wrestling III** defeated **Joe Kane, Chad Cheetum,** & **Frank Smith** ... **Al Savage** beat Alabama heavyweight champion **Tony Sweatt** to win the title.
(02-13-00)

—Brett Wolfe

ANNISTON—WAW at the WAW Arena: **Justin Idol** defeated **Big Sexxy Bubba** ... **Stomper** defeated **The Redneck** ... **Mic Valient** defeated **David Bean** ... **Midevil** defeated **Kenny Valentine** ... **Ric Rogers** defeated **Tommy Love** ... Tag team champs **Kenny Valentine** & **David Bean** defeated **Big Bubba** & **Terry King.**
(02-11-00)

—T.C. Valentine

MOBILE—WWF at the Civic Center: **The Godfather** & **D-Lo Brown** beat **Midian** & **Gangrel** ... **Christian** defeated **Mosh** ... **The Acolytes** beat **Al Snow** & **Steve Blackman** ... **Kurt Angle** defeated **Tazz** ... **The Dudley Boyz** beat **Matt** & **Jeff Hardy** ... European champion **Val Venis** defeated **Prince Albert** ... **Too Cool** beat **Bob** & **Crash Holly** ... **Rikishi Phatu** defeated **Big Bossman** ... **Kane** & **Cactus Jack** beat World tag team champs **Jesse James** & **Billy Gunn** by disqualification.
(02-05-00)

—Lisa Tople

ARKANSAS

LITTLE ROCK—WWF at the Alltel Arena: **The Godfather** pinned **Viscera** ... **Christian** defeated hardcore champion **Crash Holly** in a non-title match ... **Edge** beat **Prince Albert** ... **Too Cool** defeated **The Headbangers** and **Steve Blackman** & **Al Snow** in a three-way elimination match ... European champion **Kurt Angle** beat Intercontinental champion **Chris Jericho** by disqualification ... Women's champion **Jacquelyn** pinned **Ivory** ... **Kane** defeated **X-Pac** ... **Rikishi Phatu** beat **Bob Holly** ... **The Acolytes** defeated **The Dudley Boyz** ... **The Rock** pinned **Big Bossman** in an Arkansas streetfight.
(02-23-00)

—Matt Duffield

CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO—WCW SuperBrawl pay-per-view at the Cow Palace: ***In the finals of the WCW cruiserweight tournament:*** **The Artist Formerly Known As Prince Iaukea** beat **Lash LeRoux** to win the vacant title ... **Brian Knobs** beat hardcore champion **Bam Bam Bigelow** for the title ... **Three Count** defeated **Norman Smiley** in a handicap match ... **The Wall** beat **The Demon** ... World tag team champions **Big Vito** & **Johnny the Bull** defeated **David Flair** & **Crowbar** ... **Billy Kidman** beat **Vampiro** ... **Ric Flair** defeated **Terry Funk** in a death match ... **Tank Abbott** beat **Big Al** in a skins match ... **Hulk Hogan** beat **Lex Luger** ... World champion **Sid Vicious** defeated **Scott Hall** and **Jeff Jarrett** in a no-disqualification triple threat match.
(02-20-00)

—Dutch Krewda

SAN DIEGO—WWF at Cox Arena: **The Godfather** & **D-Lo Brown** defeated **Viscera** & **Crash Holly** ... **Tazz** beat **Midian** ... Intercontinental champion **Chris Jericho** defeated **Bob Holly** and **X-Pac** in a three-way match ... **Mark Henry** beat **Prince Albert** ... **Rikishi Phatu** defeated **Big Bossman** ... **Al Snow** & **Steve Blackman** beat **Too Cool** and **The Headbangers** in a three-way match ... World tag team champions **The New Age Outlaws** defeated **Edge** & **Christian** ... **Jeff Hardy** defeated **D-Von Dudley** ... **Kane** defeated World champion **Triple-H** by disqualification.
(02-12-00)

—Henry Kelly

SAN FRANCISCO—APW at the Kezar Pavillion: **Frank Murdoch** beat **J.J. Perez** by submission ... **The Snott Brothers** beat **Bison Smith** & **Vanilla Frost** ... **The Ballard Brothers** defeated **Michelle Starr** & **Moondog Manson** ... **Donovan Morgan** & **Vinny Massaro** beat **Nathaniel Sweete** & **Ma'och** ... **Tony Kozina** defeated **Jardi Frantz** ... Universal champ **Tony Jones** beat **Hardcore Comini** by submission ... Internet champ **Christopher Daniels** beat **Boyce LeGrande** by submission ... **Moondog Moretti** & **Vance Vain** defeated **Michael Modest** & **Robert Thompson.**
(02-05-00)

—Jeremy Medeiros

COLORADO

DENVER—WWF at the Coliseum: **The Godfather** & **D-Lo Brown** defeated **Midian** & **Crash Holly** ... **Tazz** beat **Kurt Angle** by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion **Chris Jericho** defeated **Bob Holly** ... **Too Cool** won a three-way match over **The Headbangers** and **Al Snow** & **Steve Blackman** ... **Kane** & **Cactus Jack** beat **Triple-H** & **X-Pac** ... **Mark Henry** defeated **Prince Albert** ... World tag team champions **The New Age Outlaws** beat **Edge** & **Christian** ... **Jeff Hardy** defeated **D-Von Dudley** ... **Rikishi Phatu** beat **Big Bossman.**
(02-11-00)

—Dominick Valenti

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD—WWF No Way Out pay-per-view at the Civic Center: European champion **Kurt Angle** defeated Intercontinental champion **Chris Jericho** to win the title ... **The Dudley Boyz** beat World tag team champions **Jesse James** & **Billy Gunn** to win the belts ... **Mark Henry** defeated **Viscera** ... **Edge** & **Christian** beat **The Hardy Boyz** in a number-one contenders match ... **Tazz** defeated **Big Bossman** by disqualification ... **X-Pac** pinned **Kane** in a no-holds-barred match ... **Too Cool** & **Rikishi Phatu** beat **Dean Malenko, Perry Saturn,** & **Chris Benoit** ... **The Big Show** pinned **The Rock** in a number-one contender match ... World champion **Triple-H** beat **Cactus Jack** in a "Hell In A Cell" match. Due to prematch stipulations, Jack was forced into retirement following the match.
(02-27-00)

—Will Welsh

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON—ECW at The Nation: **Nova, Chris Chetti,** & **Kid Kash** beat **C.W. Anderson, Bill Wiles,** & **Simon Diamond** ... **Mikey Whipwreck** defeated **Prodigy** ... **Super Crazy** beat **Little Guido** ... World champion **Mike Awesome** defeated **Angel** ... **Vic Grimes** beat **Julio Fantastico** ... **Lance Storm** defeated **Raven** ... **Masato Tanaka** beat **Justin Credible** ... **Tommy Dreamer, Sandman,** & **Gary Wolfe** wrestled **Rhino, Steve Corino,** & **Jack Victory** to a no-contest.
(02-11-00)

—Dominick Valenti

FLORIDA

CRYSTAL RIVER—IPW Hardcore Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **The Black Mass** beat **The Chaotic Cult** in a hardcore match ... **Jeremy Lopez** won a three-way dance against **Chad Collyer** and **Jet Jaguar** ... **Phi DeKappa U** beat **Mike Enos** & **Hack Myers** ... Heavyweight champ **Mike Sullivan** (with **Sir Ronald J. Niemi IV**) pinned **Don Montoya** ... **Abdullah the Butcher** wrestled **Haystacks Calhoun Jr.** to a no-contest ... **Barry Horowitz**

wrestled **Marty Jannetty** to a double-countout ... Tag team champs **The Anarchy Suicide Squad** won a three-way match against **Inner Aggression** and **The Freak Foundation** ... **Scoot Andrews** beat **Mr. Peskin** ... **Jeff Peterson** beat light heavyweight champion **Frankie Capone** to win the title.
(02-19-00)

—Ed Westerly

JACKSONVILLE—Thunder Wrestling Federation at the Thunder Dome: **Shocker** defeated **Cobra** ... **Dr. Feelgood** defeated **Dr. Strangelove** ... **Tiger** defeated junior heavyweight champ **Twister** by disqualification ... **Ghetto Superstar** defeated **Phantom** ... U.S. champ **The Great Alexander Figgs** defeated **Lt. Michael Figgs** ... **The Florida Hurricane** & **Ashe Corvan** defeated **Johnnie Lee** & **Wade Daniels** ... **Python** wrestled **Big Studd Hammer** to a no-contest.
(02-18-00)

—Ed Westerly

TALLAHASSEE—*ECW On TNN* taping at the Leon County Civic Center: **Erik Watts** beat **Prodigy** ... **Little Guido** defeated **Chaz Taylor** ... **Kid Kash** beat **Simon Diamond** ... **Danny Doring** & **Roadkill** beat **Nova** & **Chris Chetti** ... **Spike Dudley** beat **The Dupp Brothers** ... **Super Crazy** defeated **C.W. Anderson** ... **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **Justin Credible** and **Raven** wrestled to a no-contest ... World champion **Mike Awesome** beat **Masato Tanaka**.
(02-05-00)

—Kevin Piven

GEORGIA

CORNELIA—National Championship Wrestling at the NCW Arena: **Frenchy Riviera** beat **Stan Lane** ... **Eddie Golden** defeated **Steve Skyfire** ... **Rukkus** beat **Silky Boom Boom** ... **Terry Knight** defeated **Jesse Taylor** ... **Shank, Damien Steele,** and **White Trash** wrestled to a no-contest in a three-way bout ... **Romeo Bliss** beat NWA Worldwide TV champ **T.J. Gray** in a non-title match ... **A.J. Styles** defeated **Onyx** by disqualification ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat NWA Wildside tag team champs **Bad Attitude** for the belts.
(02-19-00)

—Stu Saks

SAVANNAH—WCW at the Civic Center: **The Artist Formerly Known As Prince Iaukea** beat **The Maestro** ... World tag team champions **Big Vito** & **Johnny the Bull** beat **David Flair** & **Crowbar** ... **Tank Abbott** defeated **Jerry Flynn** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **Chris Kanyon** ... In a second impromptu match, **Chris Kanyon** beat **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Billy Kidman** defeated **The Wall** ... **Ron** & **Don Harris** beat **Rick Steiner** & **Mike Rotundo** ... **Ric Flair** defeated **Lex Luger**.
(02-05-00)

—Billy Hanik

INDIANA

CONNERSVILLE—Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws at the Expo Hall: **Don Basher** defeated **Shiloh Hunter** ... **Johnnie Walker** pinned **Corporal Burns** ... Midwest champ **Itch Coma Wieder** pinned **Billy Bart** ... **Indiana Kidd Jr.** pinned **Lamar Erckle** ... **Don Basher** defeated **Dexter the Postal Worker** ... **Nate Webb** defeated **Johnnie Walker** by disqualification ... **The Country Boys** beat **The Darksiders**.
(02-19-00)

—Randy Klemme & Harold Newt

KENTUCKY

HODGENVILLE—Bad to the Bone Wrestling at the Larue County Community Center: **Magnum** beat **Gangsta Red** ... **Jay B. Thunder** defeated **Mr. Corleone** ... **Biohazard** beat **Homicide** ... **Regulator** defeated **Austin Fear** ... **Atomic Dog** beat **Psychodelic** ... Heavyweight champ **Ox Harley** and **Manslaughter** fought to a no-contest.
(02-26-00)

—Justin Hunter

LOUISVILLE—NWA/Ohio Valley Championship Wrestling at Louisville Gardens: **Jebediah** beat **Chris Alexander** ... **Derrick King** & **Jason Lee** defeated **B.J. Pain** & **Scotty Sabre** ... **Chris Michaels** beat **Sean Casey** ... **Robbie D** defeated **Trailer Park Trash** ... **Russ McCullough** beat **Mr. Black** ... **Ali** defeated **Bull Buchanan** ... **Damaja** beat **Rob Conway** and **Nick Dinsmore** in a three-way match ... **Rico Constantino** beat heavyweight champion **Flash Flanagan** to win the title.
(02-16-00)

—Matt Brock

MAINE

LEWISTON—Eastern Wrestling Alliance at the Multipurpose Center: **Slater** defeated **Iceberg** **Sonny D** ... **Don Juan Desanto** beat **Damon D'arcangelo** by disqualification ... **Partners in Crime** beat **Steve Ramsey** & **Damian Houston** ... **Adam Hastey** beat **Frankie Armadillo** in a hardcore match ... Hardcore champ **Kid U.S.A.** pinned **Damon D'arcangelo** ... **Alexander Worthington III** beat heavyweight champ **Dave Vicious** to win the title.
(02-19-00)

—Josh Shea

MARYLAND

HAGERSTOWN—National Wrestling League at the House of Pain Training Center: **Raging Bull** pinned **C.J. Southern** in a match in which the loser had to bob for strawberries in chocolate syrup ... **OGB** pinned **Paul Neuman** in a match in which the loser had to sing a love song to the crowd ... **Leslie Leatherman** beat **Jake Davis** by disqualification ... **Vinnie the Maniac** beat **Dan Kallis** by disqualification. According to a prematch stipulation, Kallis had to then dress like Cupid and pose for a photo shoot ... **Jimmy Jessup** wrestled **The Freak** to a double-pin. In accordance with a prematch stipulation, both men were forced to dress like Cupid and order food at a McDonald's ... **John Rambo** & **Gutterboy** beat **The Freak** & **C.J. Southern** in a match in which the losing team had to read an act from *Romeo & Juliet* ... **Brian Anthony** beat **Malcolm Y** in a match in which the loser had to dance in the ring ... **The Doc** defeated **John Balsamo** by disqualification. According to a prematch stipulation, the loser had to take **Amy Lee** to dinner at a local restaurant ... **Morgus the Maniac** & **Hyjinx** beat **Aidlean** & **Flex Fenom** by reverse decision in a match in which the losers had to use body paint to paint hearts on each other ... **Bruiser Blackwell** won a battle royal.
(02-25-00)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

MISSOURI

CAPE GIRARDEAU—Impact Championship Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **American Kickboxer** defeated **Matrix** ... **Ali Stevens** pinned **Steve Girthy** ... **Bryan Wayne** defeated **Jimmy Austin** ... **Bull Pain** defeated **Todd Morton** ... **Chris Hero** & **Harry Palmer** defeated **Ty Dalton** & **Deno Blade** ... Heavyweight champ **2 Tuff Tony** defeated **Bull Pain** ... **Madman Pondo** defeated **Mitch Page**.
(02-19-00)

—Brian Smith

(Continued on page 80)

Now On Sale!

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED Presents

RELIVE THESE SUPERSTARS' CAREERS!

Steve Austin•Bill Goldberg •Mick Foley•Kevin Nash •Madusa•Shawn Michaels!

Wrestling the greats of the game

•Thousands Of Forgotten Facts
•Hundreds Of Color Photos

116 COLOR PAGES! HEAVY COATED STOCK!

To avoid being shut out at the newsstand, use the handy form below to order by mail.

PLEASE send me _____ copies of **GREATS OF THE GAME** (Summer 2000). I am enclosing $_____ ($9.95 per copy, postage and handling included) as payment in full.

Please send check or money order only to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Print your name and address clearly

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every copy to be delivered by surface mail or $2 for every copy to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

52322C-3/00

PHONE: 1-401-946-5720
FAX: 1-401-946-8492
E-Mail: FigInc@aol.com

Address: FIGURES INC.
P.O. Box 19482, Johnston, RI 02919

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. EST
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

FIGURES Inc. THE WRESTLING SUPERSTORE™

www.wrestlingsuperstore.com™

OTHER ITEMS WE CARRY IN OUR 80 PAGE FULL COLOR CATALOG

WWF Wallpaper, Books, WWF Bandanas, Music, WWF Miscellaneous Collectibles, Ultimate Warrior Comic Books, WWF Party Goods, Wrestling Magazines, Blankets, WCW Racing Items, WCW t-shirts, WCW Hats, WCW Photos/Posters, WCW Stickers, WCW Belts, CMLL Mexican Wrestling Toys, Original Wrestling Masks, All Japan Wrestling Items, Bedding, Pillows, Jerseys, Videos, Calendars, School Supplies, Flags, Banks.

Send $2.00 for a copy
Also Available: Wrestling Video Catalog $1.00

WWF FULL HEAD MASKS

FULL HEAD MASKS ARE SOFT VINYL AND FIT COMPLETELY OVER THE HEAD.

Stone Cold Steve Austin	25.00	Goldust	35.00
Kane with Hair	35.00	Undertaker	35.00
Kane Plastic Face Mask Only	8.00	Mankind	35.00
Bret "Hitman" Hart	20.00	Rock	25.00
Shawn Michaels	35.00	Vince McMahon	25.00
Psycho Sid	15.00	Sable	35.00

THEATER IN A SQUARED CIRCLE
450 page book
$20.00 EACH

"THIS IS WRESTLING" TODAY'S STARS TOMMORROWS LEGENDS
$15.00 EACH

NEW TED DIBIASE
168 PAGE BOOK
"EVERY MAN HAS HIS PRICE"
$15.00 EACH

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING TRIVIA BOOK
"500 TRIVIA QUESTIONS"
$10.00 EACH

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL BELT
This is a championship belt that has gold ridid plastic with soft belt strap. (1999)
$19.00 each One Size Fits All

WWF CHAMPIONSHIP BELT
This is a championship belt that has gold ridid plastic with soft belt strap. (1999)
$19.00 each One Size Fits All

WWF Stone Cold Skull Belt by Jakks (1999)

This is a championship belt that is kid sized.
$15.00 each

Also Available:
The Rock Belt
Undertaker Belt
$15.00 each

WWF CHAMPIONSHIP BELT by Jakks (1999)

This is a championship belt that is kid sized.
$15.00 each

Mexican Wrestling Masks $40.00 each
Choose from:

REY MYSTERIO	THUNDER LIGER
MIL MASCARAS	LA PARKA
JUVENTUD GUERERRA	LIZMARK, JR.
ULTIMO DRAGON	SUPER CALO
KONNAN	PSYCHOSIS
PATRIOT	& MORE

ECW T-SHIRTS $20.00 EACH

Adult Sizes Only: Medium, Large, X-Large & XXLarge

CHOOSE FROM:

ECW Hardcore Logo	RVD 4:20
Sandman	New Jack 187
Tommy Dreamer	ECW Foursome
Sabu Homicidal	Balls & Axl
Taz 6:32	Justin Credible
ECW Join Revolution	No Corporate
ECW Experience Diff.	F.K The World
Jerry Lynn	Rob Van Dam
ECW Not For Everyone	Sabu Insanity
Taz Survive	Tammy

Also Available:
ECW Baseball Cap - $20.00 Each

ECW EXTREME MUSIC
CD- $20.00 Each Cassette- $15.00 Each

WWF T-SHIRTS

All T-shirts made from 100% cotton. All shirts come in adult and kid sizes.

Kids T-shirts ..... 15.00 ea. Sizes Available: Kids Medium, Kids X-Large, Kids Large
Adult T-shirts ..... 20.00 ea. Sizes Available: Adult Medium, Adult X-Large, Adult Large, Adult XX-Large

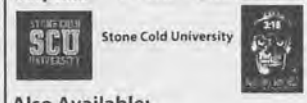
Austin Rattlesnake | Austin 3:16 | Whoop Ass | Stone Cold

AustinSmoking Skull | Dude Love | Austin Slant | Kane-Bearer of Pane

Steve Austin #1 | DGenX Logo | Owen Hart #1 | WWF Attitude

Undertaker Buried Alive | Austin- Do Not Trust | Sable | Ken Shamrock

New Age Outlaws | Mankind | Undertaker/Ministry | Chyna



Stone Cold University | Austin: Raise Hell

Also Available:

The Rock, Know Your Role	Tori Pretty Face
D-Generation X (Green Logo)	Hardcore Holly
Sable Bomb	Mankind Smiley Face
Val Venis (Hello Ladies)	DX Suck It
Al Snow	Rock People's Champ
Jeff Jarrett (Don't Piss Me Off)	Kane Kiss My Ash
Boss Man	Kane-Razing Kane
The Brood (Beware of the Brood)	Mankind & Socko
Legion of Doom	Undertaker Gravestone
Marc Mero #1	Undertaker RIP
British Bulldog #1	Undertaker I'll Bury You
Goldust & Marlena #1	Undertaker Lightning
Psycho Sid #1	Undertaker Lord
Headbangers	Undertaker Ministry
Big Show	Austin Blood Rattle
JOB Squad	Austin Take Down
Debra (Puppies)	Austin Bottom Line
Billy Gunn Ass	Austin No Mercy
Godfather	Austin Oversize Skull
X-Pac	Austin 3 Skulls
Road Dogg Kickin	Whoop Ass Ale
Triple H Game	
Triple H Champ	

ECW 6 Inch Figures

Series 1	Series 2	Series 3
A) Shane Douglas	G) Lance Storm	L) Rob Van Dam
B) Sabu	H) Buh Buh Ray	M) Justin Credible
C) Rob Van Dam	I) D-Von	N) Tommy Dreamer
D) Justin Credible	J) Tommy Dreamer	O) Taz
E) Chris Candido	K) New Jack	P) Sabu
F) Taz		Q) New Jack

$10.00 each

WWF LIFESIZE STAND-UPS

Lifesize Standups are full color and actual size

Choose from:
Shawn Michaels
The Undertaker
Steve Austin
The Rock

$30.00 each

Note: These are only available to our United States customers. We can not send these overseas to other countries due to size of these. For U.S. customers must give street address (no P.O. boxes).

WWF TRADING CARDS

WWF Wrestling Card Packs featuring Wrestlemania 3 by Topps (1987) Each pack contains 9 picture cards ..... $2.00 per pack or 10 packs for $10.00

Special Deal - Full factory box of 36 packs for only $20.00

WWF Superstars Sticker Packs by Euro Flash (made in Italy-1991) Each pack contains 6 full color stickers (made for the European market) ..... $1.00 per pack or 15 packs for $10.00

Classic WWF Trading Card Boxed Set (145 card set) Containing many WWF Superstars like Andre, Hulk, Ult. Warrior etc ..... $10.00 complete set

Official Classic WWF Trading Card Binder with plastic sheets for the above 145 card set. This is like a baseball card binder that contains enough plastic sheet card protectors so you can put in the entire 145 card set ..... only $5.00 each

WWF Football Jerseys $40.00 each
Choose from: Adult Sizes- M L XL XXL
Stone Cold Rattlesnake
Stone Cold 3:16 Skull
Rock Bull Jersey

WWF Wallets $20.00 each
Choose from:
Stone Cold University
Stone Cold 3:16 Skull
Rock
DX Defy Authority
Undertaker

WWF BASEBALL CAPS $20.00 each
Austin 3:16
D-Generation X
Undertaker
Austin Camo Cap
Val Venis
WWF Attitude
The Rock

WWF 1994 ACTION PACKED TRADING CARDS
Each pack contains 6 different fully embosed trading cards. These are the best type of trading cards made. They look 3-D. Packs randomly contain: Colossal Crushers Subset cards, 24K Gold Leaf cards.

Prices:
$2.00 per pack 5 packs for $6.00
10 packs for $15.00
Complete set of all 42 cards for $20.00
100 Packs for $50.00

WWF PEWTER LAPEL PINS are $5.00 each or (5 for $20.00)
Choose from: Stone Cold Skull, Austin 3:16, Shawn Michaels, RIP Urn, Raw Is War, Shawn Heart, Ahmed Johnson, Sid, Legion of Doom, Sunny, WWF Logo, Vader, RIP Casket, Shawn Heartbreak Kid, Rocky Maivia

WWF DOG TAGS DOUBLE SIDED with 28 Inch Chain Necklace are $10.00 each or (2 for $18.00)
Choose from: Stone Cold Austin Skull, Undertaker, Shawn Michaels, Marc Mero, Austin 3:16 logo, Legion of Doom, Savio Vega, Flash Funk, Vince 3:16, Chyna, Rock (Smell), Rock (Bull Logo), Venis, DX (Suck It), Pimpin Ain't Easy, Heartbreak Kid, We Want Puppies, Brood Blood Bath

WWF Keychains are $8.00 each or (2 for $15.00)
Choose from: Bret Hitman Hart, Undertaker RIP Urn, Stone Cold Skull and Austin 3:16 logo, Jeff Jarrett, Texas Rattlesnake, Other Side Jackass, Know Your Role Blvd., Jabronie Drive, Ho Train

Stone Cold Skull Desk Clock are $25.00 each

WCW Stand-Ups $30.00 each
Life-size stand-ups are full color and actual size.

Choose from:
Goldberg
Scott Hall
Kevin Nash

Note: These are only available to U.S. customers. We cannot ship these to Canada or overseas due to their size. U.S. customers must give a street address. (NO P.O. Boxes)

WCW Bedding

Sheet Sets:
Twin ..... $35.00 each
Full ..... $45.00 each
Pillow Cases ..... $10.00 each

Comforters:
Twin (62 by 86) ..... $60.00 each
Full (76 by 86) ..... $65.00 each

Blankets:
(72 by 90) Blanket ..... $20.00 each

Window Fashions (curtains):
Rod Pocket (82 by 63) ..... $35.00 each
Valance (84 by 15) ..... $20.00 each

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIGURES, INC.
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED, JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT
30 DAY RETURN MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

PHONE NUMBERS:
ORDERS/QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
1-401-946-5720
FAX ORDERS (24 HOURS) TO
1-401-946-8492

- ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
- ALL ITEMS ARE IN STOCK
- INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED (ADD $25.00 S/H PER TOTAL ORDER)

U.S. SHIPPING IS $5.00 PER TOTAL ORDER
(OVER $100.00 ADD $7.00)

80 PAGE FULL COLOR WRESTLING CATALOG: SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY
FULL COLOR VIDEO CATALOG: SEND $1.00 FOR A COPY

PHONE: 1-401-946-5720
FAX: 1-401- 946-8492
E-Mail: FigInc@aol.com

Address: FIGURES INC.
P.O. Box 19482, Johnston, RI 02919

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. EST
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

FIGURES Inc. THE WRESTLING SUPERSTORE™

www.wrestlingsuperstore.com™

WWF PHOTOS & POSTERS

Official 8x10 Full Color Glossy Photos
$5.00 each or (any 5 for $20.00)
(photos are put in a plastic sleeve for protection)
Choose from:

The Undertaker	Undertaker Collage	Headbangers
Sunny	Vader	British Bulldog
Marc Mero	Shawn Michaels	Mankind
Amed Johnson	Golddust	Steve Austin (6 Diff)
Legion of Doom	Ken Shamrock	X-Pac
Helmsley & Chyna	Kane (W/Undertaker)	The Rock
Val Venis	Dude Love	Edge
Sable (back shot)	Sable (Beach)	Sable (Collage)
Sable (Bikini)	Jackyn	D-Generation X
Owen (composite)	Owen (commiem.)	Test (pose)
Blackman	Road Dogg	Big Show(w/Vince)
HHH (Suck It)	Silva	Oddities
Blue Blazer	Chyna (w/Rifle)	Droz
Gangrel	Jeff Jarrett	Mark Henry
Marvelous Mero	Road Dogg	Steve Blackman
Silva	HHH (Suck It)	Oddities
Test	Hardy Boyz	Chris Jericho

Official Full Color Posters 24x36
$10.00 each choose from

STEVE AUSTIN Belt	Steve Austin Collage	AUSTIN Bang3:16
SABLE COLLAGE	UNDERTAKER	DX LOGO
ROCK SMELL	AUSTIN Skull	ROCK Collage
DX Collage	STONE COLD Snake	

Stone Cold Steve Austin

6 FOOT TALL LIFE SIZE FULL COLOR POSTERS
$20.00 each Choose from:
• STEVE AUSTIN • UNDERTAKER • ROCK

WWF Bop Bags
$10.00 each
Choose From:
Austin
Kane
Undertaker

WCW Bop Bags
$10.00 each
Choose From:
Goldberg, Sting

ULTIMATE WARRIOR T-SHIRTS
$20.00 each
ADULT SIZES: Medium Large X-Large
KIDS' SIZES: Small Medium Large

Autographed Plaques
Choose From:
Hogan
DDP
Nash
Konnan
Bam Bam
Mysterio
GOLDBERG
$60.00 each

Arn Anderson Book
$20.00 each
164 page book written by Arn Anderson with a foreword by Ric Flair.

6" WCW WRESTLING FIGURES
by San Francisco Toymakers (All figures mint on card)

1996 WCW 2nd Series Figures $15.00 each
Randy "Macho Man" Savage
Johnny B Badd (silver tights)
Ric Flair (green tights and boots)
Hulk Hogan #2 (yellow shirt w/ belt)
Vader #2 (black and red)

1997 WCW 3rd Series Figures $10.00 each
Hulk Hogan (Pre-ring yellow/red outfit) ..... Macho Man Randy Savage #2
Sting (new black and pink outfit) ..... Booker T (from Harlem Beat)
Ric Flair (red tights) ..... Stevie Ray (from Harlem Beat)
Big Bubba Rogers (black pants and hat) ..... The Giant (black tights)
Craig Pittman (in Marine outfit) ..... Alex Wright (leather jacket/blue tights)
Complete set of all 10 series 3 figures ..... $80.00 set

'97 WCW 3rd SERIES TAG-TEAM 2 PACKS
RARE Limited Edition *"A Figures Inc. Exclusive!"*
$25.00 per set (or any 2 sets for $40.00)
Choose from:
Harlem Heat (blue outfits) Blue Bloods!!!!
Nasty Boys (green outfits)
NWO Hulk Hogan & Macho Man Randy Savage (black outfits)

WCW WRESTLING RING (w/steel cage)
(Mint in box) $40.00 each

SUPERSIZE STUFFED HULK HOGAN DOLLS
These are Supersize Stuffed Hulk Hogan Dolls with a plush body with a detailed face. Hulk is wearing a "Python Power" bandana.
2 1/2 ft. Stuffed Hulk Hogan Doll ..... $25.00 ea.
3 1/2 ft. Stuffed Hulk Hogan Doll ..... $50.00 ea.
SPECIAL DEAL: Get Both Hulk Hogans for $70.00

WCW SLAM JAM - THE ORIGINAL WCW WRESTLING ALBUM
11 OFFICIAL THEME SONGS OF THE WCW STARS by Grand Theft Productions (1992)
Songs included are: "Don't Step to Ron"; "Man Called Sting"; "Mr. Bang Bang"; "Master of the DDT"; "Freebird Forever"; "Simply Ravishing"; "Johnny B Badd"; "The Natural"; "The Dragon"; "He's Smokin"; "Steinerized"
Factory sealed by Grand Theft Records (1992)
Compact Disc version is $15.00
Cassette Tape version is $12.00

WCW Rare Collectibles

Hulk Hogan Foam Pose	$10.00 each
Classic Sting Notebook	$6.00 each
Classic Sting 3 Ring Binder	$6.00 each
Classic Sting Pencil Pouch	$6.00 each
Hulk Hogan Character Cap	$10.00 each
Hulk Hogan Signature Cap	$10.00 each
Jimmy Hart Megaphone	$5.00 each
Sting Foam Finger	$10.00 each
Road Warriors Vest & Arm set	$15.00 per set
Bash at Beach Shark Koolie	$5.00 each
Macho Man Green Foam Hat	$10.00 each
Bash at the Beach Towel	$15.00 each
1998 WCW Calendar	$10.00 each
NWO Racing Koolie	$5.00 each
Flair Coin Bank	$5.00 each
Giant Coin Bank	$5.00 each
Macho Man Coin Bank	$5.00 each
Nash Coin Bank	$5.00 each
Sting Coin Bank	$5.00 each
Hall Coin Bank	$5.00 each
Hogan Coin Bank	$5.00 each
Luger Coin Bank	$5.00 each
Starrcade 97 Large Poster	$10.00 each
Bret Hart Poster	$6.00 each
4 Horsemen Poster	$6.00 each
Macho Man NWO Poster	$6.00 each
Macho Man Poster	$6.00 each
Vintage Hulk Hogan Poster	$6.00 each
Vintage Sting Poster	$6.00 each

1999 WCW Toy Biz Action Figures
6 inch Ring Fighters
$15.00 each or (set of 4 for $50.00)
Chris Benoit, Booker T, Scott Steiner, Bret Hart
6 inch Slam 'n' Crunch
$15.00 each or (set of 4 for $50.00)
Sting, Goldberg, Buff Bagwell, Konnan
Brawlin' Bikers
$15.00 each or (set of 3 for $50.00)
Sting, Goldberg, Diamond Dallas Page
6 inch Grip 'n' Flip
$20.00 per pair
Goldberg vs. Hogan, Raven vs. DDP, Jericho vs. Malenko
Steel Slammers 8 Pack
$25.00 each
Sting, Hogan, Giant, DDP, Nash, Luger, Macho Man, Hall
6 inch Head Ringers
$20.00 each or (set of 4 for $75.00)
Sting, Goldberg, Hogan, DDP
Bend-Ems
$7.00 each or (any 4 for $25.00)
Scott Steiner, Nash, Hart, Booker T, Goldberg, Sting, DDP, Hall
6 inch Smash 'n' Slam
$15.00 each or (set of 8 for $110.00)
Sting,Scott Hall,Kevin Nash,Macho Man,Hogan,Giant,Luger,DDP,Goldberg
6 inch Ring Masters
$15.00 each or (set of 5 for $60.00)
Lex Luger,Hogan,Chris Jericho,Bret Hart,Goldberg

WCW PHOTOS & POSTERS
Official 8x10 Full Color Glossy Photos **$5.00 each or (any 5 for $20.00)**
(photos are put in a plastic sleeve for protection)
Choose from:

Ric Flair	Sting	DDP	Chris Jericho	Saturn
Kevin Nash	Goldberg	Lex Luger	Disco Inferno	Elizabeth
Scott Hall	Bret Hart	Chris Benoit	Eric Bischoff	Savage
Hollywood Hogan	Nitro Girls	Booker T	4 Horsemen	Hak

23 INCH BY 35 INCH FULL COLOR POSTERS
$8.00 each or (any 2 for $15.00)
Choose from:

Goldberg	Hollywood Hogan	Sting(red)
NWO Red Logo	NWO Black Logo	Giant
Wolfpac Poster	Kidman	Buff Bagwell
Nitro Girls		

BADSTREET U.S.A. T-SHIRTS
A killer black t-shirt w/ blood red Badstreet logo 100% cotton
Adult Medium ..... $20.00 ea. Adult Large ..... $20.00 ea.
Adult X-Large ..... $20.00 ea. Adult XX-Large ..... $22.00 ea.
Badstreet U.S.A. Black Baseball Cap ..... $16.00 ea.

"OFF THE STREETS" MUSIC (1987)
Featuring Michael Hayes the Freebirds and the Badstreet Band, produced by Jimmy Page. A cassette from 1987 by Grand Theft Productions Great sounding w/ 11 songs featuring the hit "Badstreet USA". Factory sealed by Grand Theft Productions (1987)
CD or Cassette versions are $15.00 each

BADSTREET U.S.A. - THE VIDEO (1984).....$20.00 per copy

WCW Rare Collectible T-Shirts
$15.00 each (Please Specify Size)
Choose from: M L XL XXL

Outsiders Logo T-Shirt
Macho Man Tear Away T-Shirt
NWO Rodman T-Shirt
Giant Choke Slam T-Shirt
Macho Man Jail Cage T-Shirt
Bret Hart American Flag T-Shirt
Giant Signature T-Shirt
Anti-Hulkamania T-Shirt
Macho Man Madness T-Shirt
Hogan Signature T-Shirt
Ric Flair Champion T-Shirt
Harlem Heat T-Shirt
Dungeon of Doom T-Shirt
Macho Man Signature T-Shirt
Public Enemy #69 Hockey Jersey
Sting Starburst T-Shirt (KIDS SIZES ONLY)
Public Enemy Cartoon T-Shirt
Bash at the Beach 1996 T-Shirt
4 Horsemen Photo T-Shirt
Fall Brawl 1998 Caged T-Shirt
Fall Brawl Rage in Cage 1997 T-Shirt
WCW Motorsports Golf Shirt
Hollywood Hogan T-Shirt
Sting (white) T-Shirt
NWO Racing #49 Race Car T-Shirt
NWO Racing Golf Shirt
Property of NWO Racing T-Shirt

OTHER WCW CARDS
Complete set of 161 WCW cards featuring Flair, IRS, Steiner Bros., Sting, Freebirds, etc. (1991) **$10.00 per set**

WCW MAIN EVENT TRADING CARDS
WCW Main Event 1995 Trading Cards by Cardz Inc. These came out in 1995 and contain Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Macho Man Savage, Arn Anderson, etc.
(100 card set for $20.00)

WRESTLING MAGAZINE GRAB BAG
Wrestling Eye, Wrestling Fury, PWI, Wrestling All Stars, etc (your choice)
1990s (any 4 for $10.00)
1980s (any 4 for $10.00)

WCW Rare Hulk Hogan Tear Away T-Shirt
$15.00 each (One Size Fits All)

WCW Rare Hulk Hogan Doo Rag
$5.00 each

1998 WCW NITRO FIGURES SERIES 1, 2 & 3
by San Francisco Toy Company
Choose From:

6 Inch Nitro Action Figures with Action Feature

DDP	Hollywood Hogan	Goldberg
Raven	Randy Savage	Sting (Red Face)
The Giant	Curt Henning	Scott Steiner
Sting(White)	Scott Hall	Buff Bagwell
Kevin Nash	Lex Luger	Rey Mysterio, Jr.
Ric Flair	Bret Hart	

4 1/2 Inch Poseable Action Figure 4-Packs
WCW Monday Nitro 4 Figure Pack $25.00/set
CONTAINS: Sting, Lex Luger, Rick Steiner & Ric Flair
NWO 4 Figure Pack $25.00/set
CONTAINS: Hollywood Hogan, Randy Savage, Scott Steiner & Kevin Nash

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIGURES, INC.
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED. JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT
30 DAY RETURN MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

PHONE NUMBERS:
ORDERS/QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
1-401-946-5720
FAX ORDERS (24 HOURS) TO
1-401-946-8492

• ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
• ALL ITEMS ARE IN STOCK
• INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED (ADD $25.00 S/H PER TOTAL ORDER)

U.S. SHIPPING IS $5.00 PER TOTAL ORDER
(OVER $100.00 ADD $7.00)

80 PAGE FULL COLOR WRESTLING CATALOG: SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY
FULL COLOR VIDEO CATALOG: SEND $1.00 FOR A COPY

arena reports

(Continued from page 77)

NEW JERSEY

BARNEGAT—NWA-Jersey at the Russel O. Brackman Gymnasium: **Tommy Thunder** defeated **Zeig** ... **Slayer** defeated **Wacky Wayne Woo.** In accordance with a prematch stipulation, Woo was forced into a straightjacket after losing the bout ... **The Flesh Eaters** beat **Dr. Hurtz** & **Eric Kreed** ... **911** pinned **Biggie Biggs** ... **Chris Candido** beat **The Equalizer** in a ladder match to become the inaugural heavyweight champion ... **Coach Germano** beat **Rocco Dorsey** ... **King Kong Bundy** defeated **Salvatore Sincere.**
(02-19-00)

—Brett Schwan & Dorothy Sultana

PAULSBORO—New Millennium Wrestling at St. John's School: **Patty O'Brien** pinned **Dimitrius Arion** ... **The Haas Brothers** beat **Billy Baja** & **Tommy Bousche** ... **Patch** defeated **Hammer** ... **The Insane Express** beat **The Lost Boys** ... **Doink** beat **The Latin Lover** by disqualification ... **Dave Mysterio** defeated **Robbie Marino** in a streetfight ... **Rick Blade** wrestled **Low-Ki** to a time-limit draw.
(02-11-00)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

MANTUA—Combat Zone Wrestling at the CZW Arena: **Jon Dahmer** wrestled **Lord Everett DeVore** to a no-contest ... **Trent Acid** pinned **Nick Berk** ... **The Kashmerino Brothers** defeated tag team champs **The Thrill Kill Kult** to win the title ... Junior heavyweight champ **Rick Blade** pinned **Mercury** ... **The Shane Brothers** beat **Zandar** & **The Latin Lover** ... Heavyweight champion **Zandig** won a three-way Taipei death match against **The Beater** and **T.C.K.** ... **Justice Pain** pinned **Nick Gage** ... **Kronus** won a three-way no-rope barbed-wire cactus match against **Lobo** and **Madman Pondo.**
(02-05-00)

—Amy Morales

NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH—Southern Championship Wrestling at King's Night Club: **Kross** beat **Aldo De Gama** ... **High Octane** beat **Stratus** ... **Big Slam** & **Dewey Cheatum** defeated **Dartagan** & **Flex Phenom** ... **Poison Ivey** beat **Marc Ash** and **Juice** in a three-way match ... **Scab** defeated heavyweight champ **Chilly Willy** and **Toad** in a three-way match to win the title ... **Major DeBeers** & **Natrone Steele** and **Manny Fernandez** & **Rick Link** fought to a double-disqualification.
(02-24-00)

—Greg Mosorjak

DENVER—NWA Mid-Atlantic Championship Wrestling at East Lincoln High School: **Rikki Nelson** beat **Gary Royal** by disqualification ... **Drake Dawson** & **Curtis Thompson** beat **L.A. Stephens** & **J.W. Boss** ... **Lelani Kai** beat **Strawberry** to win the ladies title ... **Madd Maxx** beat **Ethan Cage** ... Mid-Atlantic champion **Colt Steele** beat **Jeff Jones** (not the ECW manager) ... **Brad Holtin** beat **Thunderfoot.**
(02-12-00)

—Dan Parris

FOREST CITY—Eastern Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Kevin Kirby** beat **The Carolina Pit Bull** ... **Rough Rider** defeated **Saki Liger** ... **Hunter Thompson** wrestled **Baby Huey** to a double-disqualification ... **Axel Knight** defeated **Ace Cauldrone** in a no-disqualification "last man standing" match ... **Josh Steinborn** and **Valor** wrestled to a 10-minute time-limit draw ... **Necro** beat **The Grungemaster** by disqualification ... **Arch Angel** beat **C.C. Daniels** in a loser-leaves-the-federation match ... **Ace Cauldrone** & **Zack Ruckus** beat tag team champions **Chris** & **Jeff Hamrick** to win the title.
(02-12-00)

—Dan Parris

OHIO

ALLIANCE—New World Wrestling at the Alliance Armory: Cruiserweight champion **Brew-Pac** beat **T.N.T.** ... **J-Byrd** defeated **Atlantis** ... **Cyrus Steele** & **Kenny Hendrix** and **Justin Dreams** & **Jackhammer** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... **Kid Copperpot** beat **Sharp Dressed Man** ... **K.C. Hammer** defeated heavyweight champ **Even Colder** to win the title ... **Jay Pumper** pinned **Captain Jack** ... **B.J. Pain** beat **Scott Fox** ... **Stevie Lee** & **Brian Ireland** wrestled **Michael Firehouse** & **Rescue** to a no-contest.
(02-19-00)

—Brandi Mankiewicz

HAMILTON—Heartland Wrestling Association at the National Guard Armory: **Matt Stryker** won a battle royal ... **B.J. Whitmer** beat **The Xtremist** ... **Rory Fox** defeated **Bennie the Bookie** ... **Astin Augustus Ambrose Esq.** beat **Logan Caine** ... **Race Steele** defeated **Bobby Casanova** ... **Shark Boy** beat **Matt Stryker** to win the vacant cruiserweight title ... **Cody Hawk** & **Mad Anthony McMurphy** defeated **Alexis Machine, Suicidio,** & **G.Q. Masters III** in a handicap match to win the tag team title.
(02-19-00)

—Brady Laber

PENNSYLVANIA

WEST CHESTER—Professional Outlaw Wrestling at the West Chester Guard Armory: **The Terror Squad** defeated **The Country Boys** ... **Greg Spitz** won a battle royal ... **Cujo** beat **Cody** in a dog-collar match ... Light heavyweight champion **Sharp Dressed Man** defeated **Mike Lawson** ... **The Krash Krew** beat **Hollywood Inc.** ... **Sean Storm** & **Greg Spitz** defeated tag team champions **Hatred Inc.** to win the title ... **The Traveler** beat **Starr** ... **Rockin' Rebel** & **Tommy Cairo** defeated **Cujo** & **Dead Man Walking.**
(02-26-00)

—Russell Ebright

TYLERSPORT—World Wide Wrestling Alliance at the Fire Hall: **Cujo** pinned **Jose Valenzuela** ... **Frank Cody** defeated **Kool Kid Ice** ... **Mike Montana** beat **Mongoose** ... **Armageddon** defeated **The Wolfman** ... **Patty O'Brien** & **Dimitrius Arion** were co-winners of a battle royal ... **Glen Osbourne** & **Nate Hatred** defeated **Nick** & **Dick Mondo** ... **Dimitrius Arion** pinned **Patty O'Brien.**
(02-18-00)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

STATE COLLEGE—Nittany Wrestling Federation at the PSU Campus White Building: **Dave Desire** beat heavyweight champion **Tommy Golden** to win the title ... **Jimmy Dio** defeated **Prexxus** ... **Don Juan Desanto** beat **Draven** ... **Fumar** defeated **Nick Mason** to win the University Park title ... **Joe Rules** & **Rick Silver** defeated **Dave Desire** & **Yutzak Arafat** and **Tommy Golden** & **Fumar** in a three-way match to win the tag team title ... **Tommy Golden** defeated heavyweight champion **Dave Desire** to win the title.
(02-11-00)

—Dominick Valenti

SOUTH CAROLINA

LAURENS—Southern Championship Wrestling at the Sports Palace: **Jooq** beat **The Jester** by disqualification ... **The Desperado** defeated **Sgt. Jake Renegade** ... **The Great Yugo** & **Crazy Train** and **Bubba Kirk** & **Johnny Dollar** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Traci Richards** beat **Victoria Rose** ... **Big Mac Truck** defeated **Thor** by disqualification ... **Ricky Storm** beat heavyweight champion **The Shooter** to win the title.
(02-05-00)

—Dan Parris

COLUMBIA—WCW at the Coliseum: **The Artist Formerly Known As Prince Iaukea** beat **The Maestro** ... **Billy Kidman** defeated **The Wall** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **Chris Kanyon** ... **Tank Abbott** defeated **Jerry Flynn** ... **Ron** & **Don Harris** beat **Rick Steiner** & **Mike Rotundo** ... World tag team champions **Big Vito** & **Johnny the Bull** defeated **David Flair** & **Crowbar** ... **Ric Flair** beat **Lex Luger.**
(02-04-00)

—Skip Glein

TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE—WWF at the Civic Coliseum: **The Godfather** & **D-Lo Brown** beat **Midian** & **Gangrel** ... **Brian Christopher** defeated **Mosh** ... **Edge** beat **Headbanger Thrasher** ... European champion **Kurt Angle** defeated **Christian** ... **The Acolytes** beat **Al Snow** & **Steve Blackman** ... Women's champion **Jacquelyn** defeated **Ivory** ... **The Dudley Boyz** beat **The Hardy Boyz** by disqualification ... **Kane** defeated **Big Bossman** ... **The Rock** & **Rikishi Phatu** beat **Triple-H** & **The Big Show.**
(02-19-00)

—Liz Hunter

MEMPHIS—Power Pro Wrestling TV taping at WMC-TV studios: **Chris Michaels** beat **Lance Jade** ... **Tracey Smothers** defeated **2 Falk 4 Sure** ... **Tommy Rogers** beat **Wolfie D** ... **Bulldog Raines** defeated **Alan Steele** ... Heavyweight champion **Ali** beat **Havoc** & **Seven** by disqualification in a handicap match.
(02-19-00)

—Will Welsh

KINGSPORT—Southern States Wrestling at the Armory: **Boris Dragoff** defeated **Bam Bam Christian** ... **Major DeBeers** beat **Johnny Thunder** ... **Flex Armstrong** & **Steve Slayton** beat **Mike Cooper** & **Mark Draven** ... **Brian Overbay** defeated **Chuck Jones** by disqualification ... **Ron Rey** defeated **The War Machine** by disqualification ... ***In a tournament to declare new tag team champions, semifinals:*** **K.C. Thunder**

& **Steve Flynn** defeated **Iron Cross** & **Ricky Harrison** ... **Beau James** & **Buddy Landell** defeated **Wolfie D** & **Hubcap** ... ***Finals:*** James & Landell beat Thunder & Flynn to win the tournament and the belts.
(02-12-00)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

TEXAS

PLANO—Texas Championship Wrestling at the TCW Slam Shack: **Bigfoot** pinned **Pendragon** ... **Phat Soman** beat **Mace** by disqualification in a hardcore match ... **Brangus** beat **Probable Cause** ... **Nature Boy Blair** & **Tommy Nero** beat **The Future** ... **Chris Young** pinned **Hot Shot Patric** ... Heavyweight champion **Beast** defeated **Biohazard** in a strap match.
(02-26-00)

—Rusty Bergin

VIRGINIA

NORFOLK—ECW at the Boathouse: **Julio Fantastico** defeated **Chilly Willy** ... **Super Crazy** & **Prodigy** defeated **The Dupp Brothers** ... **Little Guido** beat **Kid Kash** ... **Nova** & **Chris Chetti** beat **Bill Wiles** & **C.W. Anderson** ... **Raven** defeated **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **Masato Tanaka** & **Gary Wolfe** defeated **Angel** & **Vic Grimes** ... **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Simon Diamond** ... World tag team champions **Lance Storm** & **Justin Credible** beat **Danny Doring** & **Roadkill** ... World champion **Mike Awesome** defeated **Rhino**.
(02-12-00)

—Dutch Krewda

APPALACHIA—Southern States Wrestling at the Civic Center: **K.C. Thunder** wrestled **Flex Armstrong** to a draw ... **Iron Cross** pinned **Mike Cooper** ... **Death Row** beat **G-Dog** & **Brian Overbay** ... **Ron Ray** pinned **Boris Dragoff** ... **Beau James** beat **Ricky Harrison**.
(02-05-00)

—Michael J. DiMuzio & Fay Ferguson

STERLING—KYDA Pro Wrestling at the Park View High School: **Brock Singleton** defeated **Roger Anderson** ... **Alexis Laree** & **Maxx Intensity** beat **Destiny** ... **Dirty Money** and **Mad Dog Madison** wrestled to a double-countout ... **Julio Fantastico** beat **Christian York** ... **Jake Damien** beat Mid-Atlantic champ **Frank Parker** to win the title ... **Larry Eppard** defeated **Dylan Night**.
(02-05-00)

—John Portman

WEST VIRGINIA

BUCKHANNON—Mason Dixon Wrestling at the Upshur County Armory: **Just'n Kace** won a battle royal ... Tri-state champion **Punchy McGee** beat **Chick Scott** ... Heavyweight champion **Jamie Harris** beat **Mason Hunter** ... **The Bounty Hunter** beat **Joey Austin** ... Lightweight champion **The Latin Tornado** beat **Kid Stuff** by countout ... **Thrillbilly Ox** beat **El Fuego**.
(02-18-00)

—Mark Mills

WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE—*ECW On TNN* TV taping at the Eagles Ballroom: **Danny Doring** & **Roadkill** beat **The Dupp Brothers** ... **Bill Wiles** & **C.W. Anderson** defeated **Nova** & **Chris Chetti** ... **The Sandman** and **Rhino** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Jazz** beat **Simon Diamond** ... **Masato Tanaka** defeated **Angel** ... **Super Crazy** beat **Little Guido** and **Yoshihiro Tajiri** in a three-way match ... World tag team champions **Lance Storm** & **Justin Credible** defeated **Raven** & **Tommy Dreamer** ... World champ **Mike Awesome** beat **Spike Dudley**.
(02-19-00)

—Stephen Drew

LA CROSSE—ECW at the La Crosse Center: **Roadkill** beat **Chris Chetti** ... **Super Crazy** beat **Little Guido** and **Yoshihiro Tajiri** in a three-way match ... **Spike Dudley** defeated **The Dupp Brothers** in a handicap match ... **Bill Wiles** & **C.W. Anderson** beat **Tom Marquez** & **H.C. Loc** ... **Masato Tanaka** defeated **Angel** ... **Spike Dudley** beat **Lance Storm** ... **Tommy Dreamer** & **The Sandman** defeated **Steve Corino** & **Jack Victory** ... World champion **Mike Awesome** beat **Rhino**.
(02-18-00)

—Dave Lenker

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at the *Centre des Loisirs St-Esprit:* Quebec champ **Golem** beat **Jayzon Reaper** ... **Piranah** & **Franky the Mobster** beat **Martin** & **Serge Rolland** ... **Steven the Sweet Boy** defeated **Mark Male** ... **Jackal** & **Nightmare** defeated tag team champions **Blaze** & **Nightstalker** to win the title ... **Piranah** beat **The New Black Bear** ... **Franky the Mobster** beat **Iceman** ... **Phil Belanger, Rage,** & **Nova Cain** defeated **J.F. McAllister, Flatface,** and **El Diablero Jr.** ... **Marc the Grizzly** & **Kid Rock** beat **Mad Dog** & **Michael Reaper** ... TV champ **TNT** pinned **Rush**.
(02-19-00)

—Robert A. Letendre

GERMANY

LEIPZIG—WCW at the Messehalle: **Norman Smiley** beat **David Flair** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** defeated **The Wall** ... **Big Vito** & **Johnny the Bull** defeated World tag team champions **Ron** & **Don Harris** to regain the title ... **Vampiro** beat **Berlyn** ... **Booker T** defeated **Stevie Ray** ... **Scott Hall** beat **Dave "Fit" Finlay** ... **Terry Funk** defeated **Dustin Rhodes** and **Brian Knobs** in a three-way match ... World champion **Sid Vicious** beat **Jeff Jarrett**.
(02-13-00)

—Didier Haig

OBERHAUSEN—WCW at the Arena: **Booker T** beat **Stevie Ray** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** defeated **The Wall** ... **Ron** & **Don Harris** defeated World tag team champions **Big Vito** & **Johnny the Bull** to win the title ... **Vampiro** beat **David Flair** ... **Norman Smiley** defeated **Dustin Rhodes** by disqualification ... **Terry Funk** & **Norman Smiley** beat **Dustin Rhodes** & **Brian Knobs** ... **Scott Hall** defeated **Dave "Fit" Finlay** ... **Berlyn** beat **Tom Gerhardt** ... World champion **Sid Vicious** beat **Jeff Jarrett**.
(02-12-00)

—Didier Haig

JAPAN

TOKYO—New Japan at Sumo Hall: **Kendo Ka Shin** & **Dr. Wagner Jr.** beat **Shinjiro Otani** & **Tatsuhito Takaiwa** ... **Takashi Iizuka** defeated **Hiro Saito** ... **Super J** defeated **Tadao Yasuda** ... **Tatsuhito Goto** defeated **Junji Hirata** ... **Shiro Koshinaka** beat **Michiyoshi Ohara** ... **AKIRA** defeated **Koji Kanemoto** ... **Satoshi Kojima** beat IWGP junior heavyweight champ **Jushin Liger** in a non-title bout ... **Manabu Nakanishi** defeated **Hiroyoshi Tenzan** ... **Don Frye** beat **Yuji Nagata** ... **Shinya Hashimoto** defeated **Scott Norton** ... **Masahiro Chono** defeated IWGP heavyweight champ **Kensuke Sasaki** in a non-title match.
(02-20-00)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—All-Japan Pro Wrestling at Korakuen Hall: **Takao Omori** pinned **Takeshi Morishima** ... **Yoshihiro Takayama** defeated **Kamala II** ... **Kentaro Shiga, Mitsuo Momota,** & **Rusher Kimura** and **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi, Haruka Eigen,** & **Masanobu Fuchi** wrestled to a time-limit draw ... **Masamichi Marafuji, Yoshinari Ogawa,** & **Mitsuharu Misawa** and **Yoshinobu Kanemaru, Jun Akiyama,** & **Kenta Kobashi** wrestled to a time-limit draw ... **Steve Williams** & **Vader** defeated All-Japan All-Asian tag team champions **Tamon Honda** & **Masao Inoue** in a non-title match ... **Jun Izumida, Toshiaki Kawada,** & **Akira Taue** beat **Maunukea Mossman, Johnny Smith,** & **Stan Hansen**.
(02-13-00)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

MEXICO

MEXICO CITY—EMLL at Arena Coliseo: **La Flecha** & **El Pegasso** beat **Fiero** & **Principe Negro** ... **Ricky Marvin** & **El Filoso** defeated **Fugaz** & **Alan Stone** ... **Brandon, Torero,** & **Super Kendo** beat **Virus, Americo Rocca,** & **Chicago Express** ... **Mr. Mexico, Violencia,** & **Arkangel** defeated **Ringo Mendoza, Starman,** & **Solar** ... **Felino, Lizmark Sr.,** & **Atlantis** beat **Bestia Salvaje, Scorpio Jr.,** & **Shocker** by disqualification.
(02-15-00)

—Frank Vitucci

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY AUGUST

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS—Professional wrestling at the Minneapolis Auditorium: **Len Montana** beat **John Swenski** ... **Bob Geigel** defeated **George Grant** ... **Gene Kiniski** beat **Man Mountain Mike** ... **Verne Gagne** & **Joe Scarpello** defeated **Tiny Mills** & **Stan Kowalski** by disqualification.
(08-17-60)

—PWI archives

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: **Tony Atlas** beat **Moondog Rex** ... **Rick Martel** defeated **Moondog Spot** ... **Andre the Giant** beat **Killer Khan** ... **Tony Garea** defeated **Bulldog Brower** ... **Dominic DeNucci** pinned **Frank Savage** ... **S.D. Jones** beat **Johnny Rodz** ... **Curt Hennig** defeated **Baron Mikel Scicluna** ... **Pedro Morales** beat **King Kong Mosca** ... World champion **Bob Backlund** and Intercontinental champion **Magnificant Muraco** fought to a draw.
(08-24-81)

—PWI archives

NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH—NWA at Dorton Arena: **Ted** & **Jerry Oates** beat **Gene Anderson** & **Jacques Goulet** ... **Johnny Weaver** defeated **Skandor Akbar** ... **Skip Young** beat **Bill White** ... **Abe Jacobs** defeated **Charlie Fulton** ... **Ricky Steamboat** beat **Ken Patera** ... **Blackjack Mulligan** and **Ric Flair** fought to a double-disqualification.
(08-02-78)

—PWI archives

WANNA BE A WRESTLER?

Phone 850-934-8435

SKULLKRUSHERS WRESTLING SCHOOL & WRESTLING WEAR

WRESTLING MASKS $20
SPANDEX TIGHTS $65
SPANDEX TRUNKS $40
State Waist, Inside Leg Size, Color
Skullkrusher T-Shirts $10
Adult & Kids Sizes up to 3x
Wrestling Videos $15

Send $4 for Complete List of Boots, Gowns, Belts, Tights, Shin-Elbow & Knee Pads, Leotards, Trunks, Etc.

Add $4 Postage on Garments
To: BIZARE BAZZAR
P.O. Box 6188, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Make Payable BIZARE BAZZAR

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:

- PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
- THE WRESTLER
- INSIDE WRESTLING
- WRESTLING SUPERSTARS/ WRESTLE AMERICA
- THE WRESTLING ANALYST

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
DEPT 9, P.O. BOX 2029
MARION, OH 43306-8121

4687/02-98/2c

(Continued from page 9)

on the side than to hire yourselves out as paid thugs to those in need?

"The APA is a full-service protection agency," said **Faarooq**. "We don't hide from anybody, we don't fear anybody, and we'll take anybody on as a client. The more people we protect, the more beer money we collect."

Just a suggestion: I'd like to see ECW's **Simon Diamond** undergo a few changes in the near future. Diamond is one of ECW's most talented newcomers, and it's unfortunate that he's been burdened with such horrible gimmicks since debuting with the company. I fully expect him to become one of ECW's featured players somewhere down the line ... Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws has appointed a new commissioner: **Sir William Holten**. Holten, introduced by **"Dangerous Bull" Don Basher**, said that WCWO would now be under Western outlaws rules and that if any of WCWO's current wrestlers didn't want to be a part of such a promotion, they could leave. Watching this scenario play out should be very, very interesting ... Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling welcomed **Jaguar**, a new manager, into the fold recently. The shapely blonde has already signed **"Fast" Eddie Valentine** and is looking to increase her presence within

Road Dogg finds out that it's not fun having The Acolytes, Bradshaw and Faarooq, looking for you. Their Acolyte Protection Agency has found a lot of work and has made enough money to clear most of their bar tabs.

Simon Diamond cinches a headlock on Jerry Lynn. A former East Coast independent star, Diamond has had trouble busting out of mid-card status in ECW, but he has the talent to become one of the promotion's major stars.

the promotion with a few more signings ... **Sir Ronald J. Niemi IV** and **911 Inc.'s** domination of IPW Hardcore Wrestling continues. IPW heavyweight champ **"Marvelous" Mike Sullivan** is the group's newest member, and it doesn't look like there is another group within IPW strong enough to stop the carnage.

Chris Jericho recently posted the following message on his Web site, www.chrisjericho.com: "I think the time has come for **Hulk Hogan** to step down. His promo on *Nitro* this past week [March 6] was embarrassing, and the man who is a legend in the business has now become a parody of himself. I find it sad to watch, as I have great respect for him, but I can't condone how he constantly refuses to pass the torch and give the rub to the future legends of this sport. Please, 'Hulkster,' step back and take a look into the mirror and show some respect for the sport that made you a millionaire."

Ouch!

That about does it for me this month, fans. Until next month, look for me at ringside trying to schmooze the wrestlers for the inside scoop on all the latest news. □

MARKETPLACE

Professional Wrestling **Can Be Used As An Affordable, Profitable Fundraising Event For Your Organization**

Whether you're an Independent promoter, high school booster club, college club or similar organization, and you want big stars, big matches, and most of all, big money, this is what you are looking for! We have had many years of experience raising funds for all types of organizations, and these benefits have successfully and consistently raised thousands of dollars!

$ Make BIG money in Pro Wrestling $
Call (303) 480-8235
FOR A GREAT FUNDRAISER!

Pro Wrestling Video Tapes from around the world for as little as $10.00 a tape!

Peter Parrotta has tons of tapes from around the world including Japan, Mexico, Independents, older federations, etc., for sale. All styles one can think of including scientific, high-flying, stiff styles, as well as "Garbage Wrestling" such as Fire Explosion Death Matches!!!

For a BIG list of tapes please send $2 (refundable with first order) to:
Peter Parrotta
25 Overhill Road
Middletown, New York, 10940-3003, U.S.A.

OFF THE TOP ROPE

Presents the Extreme Hardcore video series. The most brutal matches you've always heard about but have never seen ... until now! These matches are not for the weak of heart. We also offer videos (new and out of print), figures, shirts, replica belts, you name it. Fans of WWF, WCW, ECW, UFC & Japan, visit our Web site at www.offthetoprope.com or send $2 for a merchandise catalog (refundable upon order) to:

OFF THE TOP ROPE
125 BEVERLY CIRCLE
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

IWA KING OF THE DEATH MATCH

You've read the book, now see the tape of some of CACTUS JACK'S **wildest barbed-wire explosion matches!!**
Over **two** *hours* of excitement for only $19.95 + $3.20 s&h.
Send check or money order to:
Tom Boler
5111 S. Hudson St.
Seattle, WA 98118
Orders shipped in 7-14 days!

Play FREE GAMES @ iwachat.com

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING Online Museum

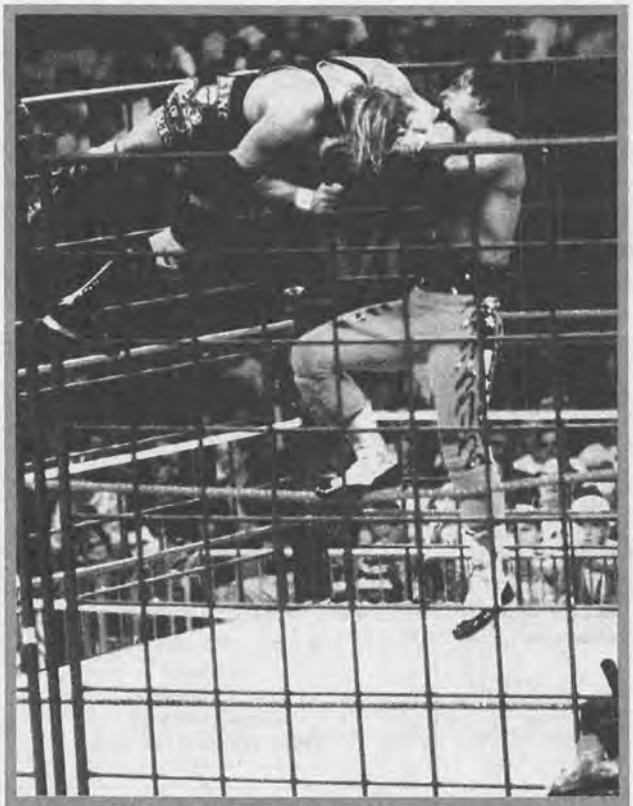
INTRODUCING THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL IN WRESTLING SINCE THE FOLDING CHAIR.

www.wrestlingmuseum.com
GO AHEAD, WE CAN HANDLE THE HITS.

Advertise Here! ONLY $75

To reserve your space call:
Sharon Liggio
(215) 643-6385

(Continued from page 66)



Owen and Bret have a Hart to Hart at SummerSlam '94.

Instead of spewing fire, "The Dragon" charges and defeats Ric Flair at the Chi-Town Rumble.

donned David's old trunks and pinned Ric Flair for the NWA World title. As yellow roses were tossed into the ring, thousands shed tears.

8. Antonio Inoki vs. Ric Flair, Collision in Korea (April 29, 1995). At this historic New Japan card in Pyongyang, North Korea, a total crowd of 340,000 turned out for two nights of action. The pomp and circumstance of the event was second only to the match between former WCW champ Ric Flair and ex-IWGP champ Antonio Inoki. The fans at Mayday Stadium were respectful toward both athletes, but were especially vocal in their support for Inoki, who defeated Flair by pinfall.

9. Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko, Showdown at Shea Stadium (August 9, 1980). Bruno Sammartino and his protege, Larry Zbyszko, had a major falling-out when young Zbyszko attacked his mentor with a chair after what was billed a "scientific" match. By the time they were locked in a steel cage in Shea Stadium, both men were seething. It was a gruesome encounter in which the teacher trounced the student. Bruno retired one year later.

10. Bret Hart vs. Owen Hart, SummerSlam '94 (August 29, 1994). The Harts took their sibling rivalry to a new level in 1994. Owen turned against Bret that January, citing his brother's "egotistical" attitude. He went on to pin Bret cleanly at WrestleMania X. Although Bret defeated Owen in almost every rematch, their feud didn't culminate until August, when they stepped inside a steel cage. The battle could be described as "scientifically intense" more than violent, which enabled Bret to beat his younger brother one last time.

11. The Undertaker vs. Mankind, King of the Ring '98 (June 28, 1998). The Undertaker may have won the match, but it is Mankind's fall from the top of the "Hell In A Cell" cage and through the Spanish announcers' table that will remain on the WWF highlight reel for years to come. Mick Foley suffered numerous internal and back injuries, in addition to getting several of his teeth knocked out. The match set a new standard for risk-taking that (we hope) will never be surpassed.

12. Rick Steamboat vs. Ric Flair, Chi-Town Rumble (February 20, 1989). The 13-year rivalry between NWA World champion Ric Flair and challenger Rick Steamboat reached its climax in Chicago. Flair, in behavior not at all typical of him in title defenses, tried to wrestle a clean scientific match against Steamboat. That strategy worked until Flair attempted a figure-four leglock and Steamboat flipped him over for the win at 23:18. The two engaged in another series of classic matches five years later.

(Continued from page 63)

change. If TNN would advertise us any other time except for when you're already watching the show, that would be a positive step. So there are always new doors being opened to expose new people to our product, but at this point, I don't know what the next big step is.

KREWDA: Has being on national TV in the 8 o'clock time slot forced you to alter anything in your presentation?

VAN DAM: It hasn't at all. I feel more like TNN is just carrying our program, but we're just doing what we did before.

KREWDA: Do you believe that most of the talent feels the same way?

VAN DAM: I believe most of the guys do. Everyone's excited about the exposure we get on TNN, but we don't feel like we work for TNN. We don't feel like any changes have been made. We're a circus travelling around doing what we do, and now that we have someone showing us on TV, we still do what we like to do. TNN is a little more strict about putting up signs in the dressing room. There's usually a sign in the dressing room that says, "Don't fight over the guard rail or grab the mike without clearing it first." I think that's the extent of TNN toning down ECW.

KREWDA: How would you characterize ECW's relationship with TNN?

VAN DAM: Good, although sometimes it sounds kind of funny if I'm telling someone who's not too familiar with ECW when we're on. If someone asks what channel we're on, and I say TNN, I always get a funny look. "TNN?" That hasn't changed, except with fans who are used to seeing us. As far as how TNN promotes the shows, there's nothing to get excited about here. The only time I see ECW commercials is when I'm watching ECW. Then I see the Friday Night Thrill Zone, and then the commercials they play are pretty bad, too. They're getting a little better, but they're still not extreme. I don't think TNN should have editorial control over our commercials, because we pride ourselves on being different from the other organizations. On their commercials, TNN does everything possible to make us look like a ripoff of Monday night wrestling. "TNN opens up another can of whoop-ass on Friday night." Then, if you have only five seconds to show actual clips of wrestling, do you really want to show just clotheslines and dropkicks? No. That pisses me off, and I see it quite a bit.

Even though they were enemies in the ring, RVD and Sabu held the tag title twice in 1998. These Michigan natives met years ago while training under The Sheik in Lansing.

KREWDA: Well, I'm sure in the minds of your fans, ECW has already distinguished itself from the WWF and WCW, which is why I'll never understand why the promotion insists on talking about the competition during blow-by-blow commentary and even on the ECW hotline.

VAN DAM: I'm definitely with you when it comes to us standing apart and feeling established. Some of the wrestlers themselves still go out to the ring and imitate some of the WWF guys' moves. I don't get that. Never have. There's only a few of our guys who enjoy doing that, and there's some who imitate the other ones when they do interviews. We have a girl who used to do everyone's finishing moves. She'd go out and do "Stone-Cold's" finishing move and this guy's finishing move, and I always thought, *Why?* I guess it's because some of our wrestlers are just big fans of Monday night wrestling and of wrestling in general.

KREWDA: What attracted you to The Sheik as a student of the game?

VAN DAM: It was the fall after I graduated and one week before my 19th birthday when I ended up trying out for The Sheik in Lansing, Michigan. I found that the guy was more reputable than any trainer. He had a bigger name than any of the other school owners that I had looked up and investigated. Besides that, he was only 45 minutes from my parents' house. I didn't have to relocate and get a job flipping burgers to try to pay my rent. Besides all that, I'm happiest I went to The Sheik because of what he taught me.

KREWDA: What was the greatest lesson you learned training under him?

VAN DAM: The Sheik told me how to control the crowd. It took me years to understand what he

meant, but he was telling me there would come a time when I could make the people stand up and cheer for me. I could make them cry for me, and I could control them just like I was pushing a button. The Sheik would teach us how to be believable, because even if it was just me in the ring with Sheik and Sheik had his big hands around my throat and was choking me in the corner, I totally believed Sheik was choking me out in the corner, because he was. Sabu would be in the ring with me, and Sheik would tell me to put Sabu in a headlock. He would tell me to do it again and again and again and again. It couldn't be tight enough; it couldn't be stiff enough for Sheik. Even if I was trying as hard as I could—*Uhhhhhhnnnnnn!!!*—just bringing the head in and squeezing it and squeezing it, trying to show Sheik, "See, see, I'm a wrestler," He'd say, "What, are you afraid of hurting him? You look like a couple of [sissies] in there." That was The Sheik's style, and he taught us to believe in what we were doing. He taught me that when I am in the ring, all the eyes are on me. I can tell so quickly that new guys just coming in to the business lack so much of what The Sheik pounded into my head. Even if the fans can't put their finger on what it is, they know the difference. A lot of the insight Sheik gave me is totally irreplaceable.

KREWDA: What were the training conditions like?

VAN DAM: The ring was in a garage and was cut in half. It was only 16 feet by eight feet, and you could only run the ropes in one direction. The Sheik, of course, was very intimidating. Still is. Always was and always will be. I was all of 170 pounds. I told him I was 185 to make myself sound bigger, because I was afraid he wasn't going to be interested in me. I wanted him to take me under his wing and train me how to wrestle and get me into the business. He put me in the ring and said, "Show me what you can do." I was completely comfortable in the ring, and I was able to show The Sheik a lot of fancy spin kicks. I could drop in the splits. I could do flips. The Sheik liked whatever he saw—the coordination, some kind of potential—and from that point on, he said, "Give me some money."

KREWDA: What was the atmosphere like at The Sheik's facility?

VAN DAM: When I trained with him, it was a family atmosphere. It wasn't like a wrestling school with a bunch of lockers and showers. There'd be myself and Sabu, and at times, maybe two or three other wrestlers. We'd work out in his ring, we'd swim in his pool, and we'd eat dinner with him and his family, then listen to Sheik stories at the table afterward. It was a great time. It was a great way to learn. It was a great way to get into the business. After being trained by The Sheik, I felt that my first professional match, even though there were wrestlers on the card who were wrestling for 10 years, was the best match on the card. The fans confirmed it after—"Your match was my favorite match on the card." That was something for me to strive for, and I still do.

KREWDA: Obviously, The Sheik filled you with confidence. How much of that confidence is the Rob Van Dam character, and how much is Rob Szatkowski?

VAN DAM: I guess you'd have to ask someone who knows both to give you an objective answer. From my perspective, once I step through the curtain, I become Rob Van Dam. My wife has told me that I walk differently when I'm Rob Van Dam. My chest sticks out more. When I'm not working, I'm not as outgoing. I consider myself a very mellow person, very peaceful, very Zenful, which is why you see the yin and yang symbols on my outfits. It's something I use to remain peaceful. And I am. I am definitely a Type B person. I don't fly off the handle. It's hard to get me angry. When I'm Rob Van Dam, and even if I'm a crowd favorite and the fans are cheering me, I'm what some consider an anti-hero, where in this day and age, being a [creep] can get you over more than just smiling and showing your dimples. Whether I'm doing a promo or just in the ring talking garbage to the fans or to the wrestler I'm in the ring with, the self-centeredness comes across. No matter what's going on, it's all about Rob Van Dam, and that's something I definitely save for the appropriate times in the ring. I don't think that attitude would be appreciated in a social environment. I think if I tried pulling that,

While their styles are worlds apart, Van Dam credits his mentor, The Original Sheik, with giving him a solid foundation in the art of the performance. Sheik was one of the bloodiest men in wrestling history but his influence can be spotted in Van Dam's showmanship.

most people would want me to leave or else would find someplace else to go socialize. *(Laughs)*

KREWDA: That's obvious, Rob. What I want to know is that when people say RVD is the most popular performer or the most athletically gifted wrestler in ECW, does that stuff ring true to you behind the curtain?

VAN DAM: I believe people are sincere when they say, "You're the most entertaining wrestler in the business today." I think that other wrestlers get feedback, too, but I don't think the other wrestlers get the same, "Wow, you're the man. How do you go to the top rope and jump way out?" I'm sure the people are being sincere when they say that, but when it comes to being the best, or the most popular, or the most gifted, those are just opinions. So if someone comes along and says, "Hey, Rob Van Dam, Shane Douglas is my favorite wrestler. He's the hardest worker I've ever seen in the ring. He puts on the best matches. Shane Douglas has defended the title with more honor and made the belt mean more." Well, then he's right, too, because that's his opinion.

KREWDA: Does wrestling in the era of the smart fan make your job any harder?

VAN DAM: It makes it more challenging, but it's a challenge I appreciate. The fans have become educated since the mid-'80s, when everyone started tuning in to wrestling. The wrestlers back then didn't have to be great workers; they just had to have a look. After WrestleMania hyped everybody up, people would tune in just to see a hillbilly dance with a pig or to see Junkyard Dog with a chain around his neck, dancing in a junkyard. Your wrestling ability didn't matter, and it showed in the ring. You'd watch big fat guys doing lazy clotheslines and horrible moves. It was entertaining for what it was worth, but eventually the fans started saying, "Hey, he didn't even hit him," or "That looked like [crap]." The fans know what's up. They've heard wrestlers talk on TV about their booking plans. They've heard the wrestlers say, "Look, it's just entertainment." That's the only reason someone like Rob Van Dam has a chance to get ahead nowadays—because the fans know that it's entertainment, they look at it differently. They now look at wrestlers inside the ring as how hard they're working to entertain the crowd. They know for a fact that's what our jobs are. The same lazy style that used to get over back in the day would be totally unappreciated now. ECW has the most hardcore fans out of all of them. If they see a big fat guy in the ring who didn't look good, they'll let him know. They'll boo him out the door. The fans study us. They wait for us to slip up so they can chant, "You [screwed] up! You [screwed] up!" That puts an extra demand for a better work rate on us, which is exactly how I love it.

A broken leg delayed Van Dam's quest to take Mike Awesome's World title, but their showdown is inevitable. "The fans want to see me kick Mike Awesome's ass," says RVD.

Since I'm able to work hard and get ahead, where some guys maybe can't work as hard to get ahead, maybe in this particular work rate, some of their weaknesses are exposed more. Whatever the deal is, I have no doubt that if I was trying to get into the business, nobody would have looked my way, because I'm 235 pounds, which is not huge by wrestling standards, and back in the day, it was way too small. Even Bret Hart was too small to be a singles wrestler in the WWF. Same as Owen and Shawn Michaels, who was the one who broke the barrier because he was such a damn good worker. He was so good, the fans could get behind him. He came in as a 200-pound guy who did some flying and started catching people's attention. He became the heavyweight champion and was barely over 200 pounds. That was new ground. Now Rey Misterio Jr., at 140 pounds, can get in the ring, and because he's so entertaining, he has a chance to be considered one of the top wrestlers in the world. All those wrestlers from the '80s who had that old style ... well, now you can see them in WCW.

KREWDA: All that's true, but where have fans earned the right to be as critical of the actual performances as they are, considering the fact that most of them have never even stood inside a ring before?

VAN DAM: Everybody has a right to an opinion. The guy who delivers water to your office—you have the right to have an opinion about him. You might say, "Look at this fat ass. Is it gonna take him all day to get up the steps and replace this thing?" Someone whose whole life is wrestling certainly has a right to an opinion. But it's only that—an opinion. Being celebrities and putting ourselves in the spotlight, we're opening ourselves up for feedback, which is gonna be good if we're worthy and not so good if we're not. When you're in the limelight, everyone has a right to be a critic and say how they feel about you. But since I'm in the ring, and the only one with the perspective of a wrestler—

as opposed to a non-wrestler—who really knows what it's like, I think the fans have a right to say what they want. A sheet writer, a newsletter writer have about the same rights as a fan, and for that matter, a columnist in a wrestling magazine who says, "This the way it is ... this guy's good ... this guy should do this, shouldn't do this ..." All he is is a wrestling fan who's stating his opinion, and he has a job where people are gonna read what he writes. As a wrestler, I can speak about other wrestlers the same way. Of course, I would have a different perspective to say whether this guy is too slow or too lazy.

KREWDA: That's my point exactly; you would have an informed perspective ...

VAN DAM: Informed from experience. But certainly a fan who's been watching wrestling for eight, nine, 10 years has an educated opinion as well. Whether they know all the trivia about wrestling, or even if they're just observing it even from a non-wrestling fan point of view, they turn on wrestling and see a couple of guys in the ring, they can definitely come up with an opinion. Whether they state their opinion or not, they're gonna have some kind of opinion formed in their mind. I've spent a lot of time earlier in my career trying to overcome opinions that were already in people's minds. When nobody knew who I was, but I was going around towns trying to promote myself as a professional wrestler, I constantly ran into, "Aw, you mean that fake stuff? I watch that stuff on TV and they don't even hit each other." For the first few years of wrestling, I constantly had to put up with that. "Oh, you wrestle? Like that WWF stuff? Isn't that stuff fake?" I'm so thankful for ECW right now because I don't get asked that anymore. Now people see me in the ring getting a metal chair wrapped around my head so you can see my face imprint on the chair. They see blood pouring out of my head, and they have no doubt that hurts. I mean, the fans aren't wondering *Hmmmmmm. I wonder if that was staged.* They know that when a wrestler gets piledriven through a wooden table onto the concrete floor, they can relate to that even though they haven't experienced it themselves—they don't have the information from experience—to give an honest opinion of what it feels like. But they can imagine that the human body crashing through a wooden table and bouncing on the concrete hurts. They can relate to it even if they can't relate to it first-hand. Just being in the same human realm that we're in, they can relate to it to an extent. It's all relative, and I can't fault anyone for having an opinion, although I can differ with their opinion. Of course, if they think RVD isn't the best wrestler, everyone will have a different opinion than theirs because they're crazy and should be locked up.

Although he remains wildly popular with ECW fans, Van Dan has taken some criticism for publicly extolling the virtues of marijuana. While he is aware this message may reach his young fans, he hopes his athleticism and wrestling skill will appeal to them more.

KREWDA: What does ECW need to do on a night-by-night basis to better the product overall?

VAN DAM: If I had to say there is one thing that could help ECW, it would definitely be a bigger team to promote. Not the wrestlers, but the non-wrestling team. Too often, we come into a town on the road where I'll hear some of the locals say they didn't even know ECW was coming to town. I got that when I was in WCW as well, but that's something that could be overcome. It will help us draw our attendance and help make the crowd grow. It's pretty much a one-man show, with Paul Heyman being the man that calls all the shots for the whole company, and it's always been that way, but he's getting more and more help as the company's growing. But until we get a competent staff that is willing to hit the towns with promotions, and I don't just mean sending some posters or buying a spot or two on the radio, I mean really busting their asses to let that town know that ECW's there ... that's the one thing I would like to see happen. When I used to run independent shows, I would bust my ass for several weeks in that town. I would hit every business. I'd get all the businesses to sponsor children to come out to the matches. I'd be selling them advertising space in our souvenir program. I was doing lectures for the kids at the schools. I'd visit the newspaper. I'd completely cover the town. It's

something that I learned to do long, long ago. I busted my ass doing it, and I was looking forward to the day when I could just wrestle and get paid for it and have someone else do all that. I would still like to see everyone else do all that than see me getting paid to wrestle and that not getting done.

KREWDA: Athleticsm aside, promoting Rob Van Dam may be trickier than promoting the average wrestler since you incorporate marijuana imagery and references into your presentation. How do you reconcile your roles of visible superstar and paragon of physical fitness with being an open advocate of marijuana use?

VAN DAM: Well, marijuana is obviously illegal, and it's not socially acceptable by the mainstream, so I can't endorse it. I can't talk about it in a way that makes it sound like anything less than what it is—an illegal drug—at least not here in a wrestling magazine. As far as getting into it here, I can say that the references you pick up, a lot of other people don't pick up on. A lot of people do, and a lot of people don't. ECW being the adult-oriented entertainment company that it is has an appropriate place for suggestions. ECW never claimed to be anything more than adult entertainment.

KREWDA: With all due respect, Rob, I have difficulty accepting that rationale. ECW is marketing action figures and video games. Watch one of your matches and you'll see that most of the people pumping their thumbs and jumping around are kids.

VAN DAM: You say that, but I can tell you from experience that many of the crowds we run in front of have very few kids in them, and some of them have a lot of kids in them, depending on which town we're in. As far as ECW's goals and our demographics, I've heard this said over and over by the front office that we target male viewers, although we do have some female viewers, ages 18 to 34. Obviously, kids are gonna see us and pick up on us, because ECW is very, very cool. When I was a kid, I would watch R-rated movies and be very excited about it. Also, the references by Rob Van Dam are not unique. I'm not the only one making them. I get a lot of heat because of ECW and what I do, but over in the WWF, you hear Road Dogg making references. You know, "Roll your Dogg a bone." Then The Godfather and X-Pac make references, too. My character is one that is real enough where I don't have to implant feelings into Rob Van Dam. I don't have to pretend that I'm a warrior who gets his strength from the gods up above who talk to me. It's not about that. I'm just Rob Van Dam. The stoners are big fans of Rob Van Dam because they can relate. The kids can relate. They say, "Yeah, he does all these moves; he's so exciting." The adults can relate because I try to entertain them the most. I try to be well-rounded enough to where everybody can relate to me and identify with what I have to offer. The kids who follow me, I'm very fond of. I definitely enjoy having the position of a role model and an inspiration to young children. I would never advise them or suggest to them to do something that I don't think they should do. Definitely, smoking marijuana is something I don't think they should do.

"Paul has a reputation for not returning phone calls which he lives up to very much," according to Van Dam. Despite the prominent role of Van Dam and Heyman in ECW, they are rarely in close contact.

KREWDA: I'm sure you're sincere when you say that, but when you come out to the ring with pot leaves on your singlet, these kids know what they see.

VAN DAM: It's a part of life, and it's gonna be contradicting to what they may be learning in school. I don't like the false images that are put into their heads when they're in school. They're actually taught that it's something completely different than what it is. If I had my way, everybody would be educated on the truth of the marijuana plant. I'd want them to be educated so they know what it really is and can make their own decision as to how they're going to react to it. As a kid, I've always been a big action fan. I wanted to be like Arnold Schwarzenegger. But I never thought that just because he was shooting people with guns that I should go out and start blowing people up. At the same time, I bet people who were into guns really liked that about him. I think he appealed to those people, but he has other qualities that other people pick up on. Much in the same way, I believe that I have different qualities which different people will pick up on. I'm definitely an influence, and even if I didn't want the pressure of having kids look up to me, tell me they want to be just like me, it's something that I'm proud of. We talked about the differences between Rob Van Dam and Rob Szatkowski, but no matter what we come up with, Rob Szatkowski is a real human being with real qualities. □

the JAPAN REPORT

By Mike Spillane

TIGER MASK IV. The Great Sasuke. Kaz Hayashi. Jushin Liger. Gran Hamada. These five men are some of the greatest junior heavyweights in the world, and along with 11 other top-notch competitors, they will participate in this spring's 2000 Super J Cup hosted by Michinoku Pro. The tournament has *puroresu* fans talking like never before.

In an opening round match, Liger and Tiger Mask IV will battle for the very first time. In the past, Liger has been put to the test by the likes of the original **Tiger Mask—Satoru Sayama**—who's now known as **Tiger King**. Liger has had a long and storied feud with the third Tiger Mask, **Koji Kanemoto**, as well. Now the latest Tiger—the prize pupil of the original—will lock up with Japan's most enduring junior heavyweight star. It will definitely be an historic match.

Ultimo Dragon, who has helped to organize the tournament, is contemplating a return to the ring. A botched surgery from more than a year ago has left Dragon with only one fully functioning arm, but Dragon feels he must return to the ring for a final go-around in order to bid farewell to all his fans. Dragon's staunchest supporters are divided over the prospect of him doing this, as many do not want to see him wrestle at anything less than 100 percent. Others are anxious to see Ultimo slip between the strands for one last hurrah before hanging up his tights and boots for good.

For the first time in his life, All-Japan Pro Wrestling star **Jun Akiyama** pinned **Mitsuharu Misawa** cleanly in a singles match. Since 1998, Akiyama has had a bevy of high-profile matches with Misawa—many of them contested for the All-Japan Triple Crown. When Akiyama used his hand-clutch exploder suplex (sometimes called the exploder '98) to keep Misawa down for the count of three on February 27 at Tokyo's Budokan Hall, there was nothing on the line but bragging rights. Akiyama has finally broken through into the upper stratosphere of All-Japan stars with this pinfall win over Misawa, and the victory has put him at the front of the line to challenge for the Triple Crown.

Kaz Hayashi might be a mid-carder in WCW, but around the world, he's respected as one of the sport's top junior heavyweights. Hayashi will compete in this year's prestigious Super J tournament.

As All-Japan prepares for its spring Tokyo Dome show—its biggest show of the year—top contender Akiyama must prepare himself for a match he never wanted. Originally, it seemed that Vader would be heading to the Dome with the Triple Crown firmly in hand. However, Akiyama's regular tag team partner, **Kenta Kobashi**, stunned fans by upsetting **Vader** for the championships, crushing him with his devastating lariats. Now the two men who comprise the team known as **Burning** will square off for the most prized titles in All-Japan. Kobashi vs. Akiyama is set to headline the Tokyo Dome show.

New Japan Pro Wrestling is stuck in a tough spot, as **Keiji Muto**, one of the company's perennial stars, is looking to branch out and start his own wrestling company. New Japan must decide whether it wants to keep Muto under contract despite his irregular availability or let the *puroresu* icon leave the nest and begin a promotion of his own. Muto may be looking to cut down on his in-ring time to rest his rickety knees.

No matter what New Japan officials decide, Muto has already been talking with WCW officials about a return to the United States, where his **Great Muta** alter ego might give at least a small boost to sagging WCW.

Soo da, sayonara! □

the MEXICO REPORT

By John Molinaro

ABISMO NEGRO outlasted **Cibernetico, Charly Manson,** and **El Alebrije** to win AAA's fourth annual *Rey de Reyes* (King of Kings) tournament before a sellout crowd of 18,000 at the legendary El Toreo de Cuatro Caminos in Naucalpan on March 5.

The one-night tournament sees 16 wrestlers compete in four four-way singles matches, with the winner of each advancing to a final four-way match in which the ultimate winner is crowned the *Rey de Reyes* champion.

After Manson and Alebrije were eliminated, Negro and Cibernetico were set to square off, but **Tiger Steele**, a foreign *rudo* causing havoc throughout AAA, attacked both wrestlers. Referee **Tirantes** only saw the attack on Negro, however, so he disqualified Cibernetico and gave Negro the victory and tournament championship. After the match—with the crowd chanting "Mex-i-co! Mex-i-co!"—Negro and Cibernetico teamed up to beat Steele all the way back to the locker room in a superior show of unity.

Previous winners of the prestigious tournament include **Latin Lover** ('97), **Octagon** ('98) and Cibernetico ('99).

On the same card, **La Parka Jr.** defeated **Drako II** in a mask vs. mask match. La Parka Jr. was originally scheduled to square off against rival **El Hijo del Espectro,** but because of an illness to Espectro, Drako II was brought in as a substitute. After the match concluded, the fans, unhappy with Espectro withdrawing from the match, littered the ring with garbage and debris. This episode marked the second time Espectro failed to wrestle in a mask vs. mask match for which he had been scheduled.

Nicho el Millonario (WCW's **Psicosis**) made his triumphant return to Tijuana on a Promociones Mora show. He teamed with EMLL stars **El Hijo del Santo** and **Brazo de Plata** in a match against **Rey Misterio Sr., Halloween,** and **Damian.**

The match was a wild affair that saw Millonario use a stapler on Misterio's head, busting the veteran wide open, and **Rey Misterio Jr.** run to the ring and handcuff his uncle/mentor to the ropes. But during the fracas, Damian made the save and secured the pinfall victory before the rival team could score one.

Nicho el Millonario (Psicosis), with help from Rey Misterio Jr., recently led a brutal attack on Rey Misterio Sr., leaving the veteran beaten and bloodied. Promoters are trying to make a match between the two rivals

A postmatch brawl saw Millonario pummel Misterio Sr., and a future one-on-one match between the two is said to be in the works.

The long, storied career of **Perro Aguayo** is slowly coming to an end. The veteran star recently had his final match in Japan, teaming with his son, **Perro Aguayo Jr.**, and **Dr. Wagner Jr.** to defeat **Jushin "Thunder" Liger, Gran Hamada,** and **Negro Casas**. As he will be in Mexico, Aguayo will be widely missed by Japanese wrestling fans and the Japanese wrestling community at large. In the early-'80s, Aguayo was a regular on New Japan shows, competing in the promotion's junior heavyweight division against the likes of **Dynamite Kid**, Hamada, **Tiger Mask**, and **Bret Hart**.

After returning home to Mexico, Aguayo continued his farewell tour with EMLL, having been given special permission to wrestle with AAA's rival promotion by AAA President **Antonio Pena**. Aguayo's appearance at Arena Mexico marked the first time he had wrestled at the fabled venue in more than eight years. Only two weeks after being brutalized at the hands of 12 of AAA's most vile *rudos*, he teamed with **Rayo de Jalisco Jr., Atlantis**, and **Mr. Niebla** to defeat **Villano III, Shocker, Scorpio Jr.**, and **Bestia Salvaje**.

The feud between **Pierroth Jr.** and **Mascara Ano Dos Mil** intensified as Dos Mil defeated Pierroth in a brutal hair vs. hair match. The two have been feuding for months, and many insiders are speculating that the only way for this feud to end would be for Pierroth Jr. and Dos Mil to put aside their differences and work together as a team. There is no doubt that such a team would quickly become one of Mexico's most dominant. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED®

TOP 10

1. **THE ROCK**
   272, Miami, FL
   (8) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
2. **MIKE AWESOME**
   285, Tampa, FL
   (3) ECW World champion
3. **TRIPLE-H**
   279, Greenwich, CT
   (4) WWF World champion
4. **KENTA KOBASHI**
   261, Fukuchiyama, Japan
   (-) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
5. **CHRIS BENOIT**
   218, Edmonton, Alberta
   (-) WWF Intercontinental champion
6. **SID VICIOUS**
   318, West Memphis, AR
   (1) WCW World champion
7. **KENSUKE SASAKI**
   233, Tokyo, Japan
   (6) IWGP heavyweight champion
8. **SUPER CRAZY**
   172, Mexico City, Mexico
   (-) ECW TV champion
9. **JEFF JARRETT**
   230, Nashville, TN
   (5) WCW U.S. champion
10. **KURT ANGLE**
    233, Pittsburgh, PA
    (10) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

The Rock

TAG TEAMS

1. **BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   (7) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
2. **JUSTIN CREDIBLE & LANCE STORM**
   Combined weight: 459 pounds
   (4) ECW World tag team champions
3. **VADER & STEVE WILLIAMS**
   Combined weight: 740 pounds
   (5) All-Japan International tag team champion
4. **CHRISTIAN & EDGE**
   Combined weight: 465 pounds
   (-) WWF World tag team champions
5. **DON & RON HARRIS**
   Combined weight: 592 pounds
   (8) WCW World tag team champions
6. **YUJI NAGATA & MANABU NAKANISHI**
   Combined weight: 455 pounds
   (3) IWGP International tag team champions
7. **JEFF & MATT HARDY**
   Combined weight: 422 pounds
   (-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
8. **MIKE AWESOME & RAVEN**
   Combined weight: 550 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: ECW World tag title
9. **BIG VITO & JOHNNY THE BULL**
   Combined weight: 487 pounds
   (2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
10. **TOO COOL**
    Combined weight: 433 pounds
    (10) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

WCW

World Champion:
SID VICIOUS
(C) 318, West Memphis, AR

1—JEFF JARRETT
(1) 230, Nashville, TN
2—VAMPIRO
(-) 220, Montreal, Quebec
3—HULK HOGAN
(-) 275, Venice Beach, CA
4—STING
(-) 260, Venice Beach, CA
5—LEX LUGER
(8) 275, Chicago, IL
6—RIC FLAIR
(3) 243, Charlotte, NC
7—DUSTIN RHODES
(-) 274, Austin, TX
8—TERRY FUNK
(9) 247, Amarillo, TX
9—BRIAN KNOBS
(10) 284, Allentown, PA
10—THE WALL
(-) 320, Ocean Grove, NJ

WWF

World Champion:
TRIPLE-H
(C) 279, Greenwich, CT

1—CHRIS BENOIT
(10) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
2—THE ROCK
(2) 272, Miami, FL
3—KURT ANGLE
(3) 233, Pittsburgh, PA
4—RIKISHI PHATU
(6) 401, San Francisco, CA
5—THE BIG SHOW
(5) 500, Atlanta, GA
6—KANE
(7) 345, parts unknown
7—CRASH HOLLY
(-) 225, Mobile, AL
8—EDDY GUERRERO
(-) 221, El Paso, TX
9—CHRIS JERICHO
(1) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia
10—TAZZ
(9) 248, Red Hook, NY

ECW

World Champion:
MIKE AWESOME
(C) 285, Tampa, FL

1—SUPER CRAZY
(4) 172, Mexico City, Mexico
2—TOMMY DREAMER
(2) 245, Yonkers, NY
3—RHINO
(5) 285, Detroit, MI
4—KID KASH
(-) 205, Johnson City, TN
5—LITTLE GUIDO
(9) 221, Howard Beach, NY
6—GRIMES
(-) 399, Bronx, NY
7—RAVEN
(6) 265, Short Hills, NJ
8—YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI
(8) 224, Tokyo, Japan
9—ANGEL
(10) 265, Bronx, NY
10—THE SANDMAN
(-) 244, Philadelphia, PA

NWA

NWA Champion:
NAOYA OGAWA
(C) 286, Tokyo, Japan

1—COLORADO KID
(3) 231, Colorado Springs, CO
2—BIG DON BRODIE
(-) 350, Jackson, MS
3—GARY STEELE
(1) 241, London, England
4—RUKKUS
(-) 235, Altanta, GA
5—COLT STEELE
(-) 240, Charlotte, NC
6—CHRIS CANDIDO
(-) 226, Carteret, NJ
7—CURTIS SLAMDAWG
(2) 222, Boston, MA
8—KURRGAN
(-) 345, Hamilton, Ontario
9—JUGGERNAUT
(-) 217, Fort Worth, TX
10—KEVIN NORTHCUTT
(4) 348, Chalmette, LA

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended April 5, 2000

ALL PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Ma'och; **1**—Tony Jones; **2**—Michael Modest; **3**—Frank Murdoch; **4**—Donovan Morgan; **5**—Boyce LeGrande; **6**—Vinny Massaro; **7**—Robert Thompson; **8**—Hardcore Comini; **9**—Vance Vain; **10**—Bison Smith.

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—J.J. The Ring Crew Guy; **1**—Glen Osbourne; **2**—Cheetah Master; **3**—Ty Street; **4**—Vince Goodnite; **5**—Mr. Ooh La La; **6**—Boogie Woogie Brown; **7**—Jeff Peterson; **8**—J.R. Ryder; **9**—Inferno Kid; **10**—Trent Acid.

INDEPENDENT PRO WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Tom Brandi; **1**—King Kong Bundy; **2**—Cueball Carmichael; **3**—Jimmy Cicero; **4**—Corporal Punishment; **5**—Big Slam; **6**—Julio Fantastico; **7**—Christian York; **8**—Jacey North; **9**—Joey Matthews; **10**—Vernon Porter.

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Bruiser; **1**—Tom Brandi; **2**—Romeo Valentino; **3**—Julio Fantastico; **4**—Gillberg; **5**—Gregory Martin; **6**—Jimmy Cicero; **7**—Corporal Punishment; **8**—Dino Devine; **9**—Christian York; **10**—Adam Flash.

MASON DIXON WRESTLING: Champion—Jamie Harris; **1**—Punchy McGee; **2**—Mason Hunter; **3**—Chick Scott; **4**—Latin Tornado; **5**—Bob Brown; **6**—The Bounty Hunter; **7**—Ox Williams; **8**—Brute Shooter; **9**—Lance Malinowski; **10**—Kid Stuff.

NORTHEAST WRESTLING: Champion—Ralph Mosca; **1**—Dave Vicious; **2**—King Kong Bundy; **3**—Julio Fantastico; **4**—Xavier; **5**—Christian York; **6**—Corporal Punishment; **7**—Qeenan Creed; **8**—Joey Matthews; **9**—Don Montoya; **10**—Sledge.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Michael Modest; **1**—Joe E. Legend; **2**—Cheetah Master; **3**—Ty Street; **4**—J.J. Johnson; **5**—Eddie Valentine; **6**—Scott Furie; **7**—Johnny Maxx; **8**—Nick Mondo; **9**—Jeff Peterson; **10**—Brian Logan.

RHODE ISLAND WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Wolverine; **1**—Danger Boy Alfredo; **2**—Pierre the Mountie; **3**—Live Wire; **4**—Danny Cama; **5**—Bad News; **6**—Thrash; **7**—Max Brannigan; **8**—Captain Maniac Cop; **9**—Mael; **10**—The Intern.

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Scab; **1**—Natrone Steele; **2**—Rick Link; **3**—Uncle Tom Kettle; **4**—Toad; **5**—Major DeBeers; **6**—Boris Dragoff; **7**—Poison Ivey; **8**—Manny Fernandez; **9**—Tears; **10**—Stratus.

SOUTHERN STATES WRESTLING: Champion—Tracey Smothers; **1**—War Machine; **2**—Chuck Jones; **3**—Beau James; **4**—Ricky Harrison; **5**—Buddy Landell; **6**—Ron Ray; **7**—K.C. Thunder; **8**—Brian Overbay; **9**—Boris Dragoff; **10**—Steve Flynn.

UNIFIED CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Al Savage; **1**—Steve Southern; **2**—Tony Sweatt; **3**—Chad Cheetum; **4**—Joe Kane; **5**—Big Nasty; **6**—Aiky Breaky Kid; **7**—Frank Smith; **8**—Echmo; **9**—Tommy Martinelli; **10**—Mr. Wrestling III.

WILD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING OUTLAWS: Champion—Indiana Kidd Jr.; **1**—Don Basher; **2**—Rob Ramer; **3**—Johnnie Walker; **4**—Billy Bart; **5**—Cousin Ernie; **6**—The Convict; **7**—The Soultaker; **8**—Wild Thing; **9**—Nate Webb; **10**—Lamar Erckle.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
KENSUKE SASAKI
(C) 233, Tokyo, Japan

1—JUSHIN LIGER
(9) 206, Hiroshima, Japan
2—SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(3) 287, Gifu, Japan
3—NAOYA OGAWA
(7) 286, Tokyo, Japan
4—KOJI KANEMOTO
(10) 205, Osaka, Japan
5—MASA CHONO
(1) 235, Tokyo, Japan
6—KEIJI MUTO
(2) 245, Yamanashi, Japan
7—SATOSHI KOJIMA
(8) 223, Tokyo, Japan
8—SHINJIRO OTANI
(-) 215, Yokohama, Japan
9—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(5) 270, Tokyo, Japan
10—DON FRYE
(6) 205, Sierra Vista, AZ

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
KENTA KOBASHI
(1) 261, Fukuchiyama, Japan

1—STEVE WILLIAMS
(4) 265, Norman, OK
2—MIKE BARTON
(8) 256, Austin, TX
3—JUN AKIYAMA
(3) 230, Hiroshima, Japan
4—AKIRA TAUE
(6) 265, Chichibu, Japan
5—VADER
(C) 450, Denver, CO
6—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(2) 245, Ashikaga, Japan
7—YOSHIHIRO TAKAYAMA
(-) 270, Sapporo, Japan
8—TAKAO OMORI
(7) 221, Tokyo, Japan
9—WOLF HAWKFIELD
(-) 272, New Port Richey, FL
10—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(5) 228, Ashikaga, Japan

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
UNIVERSO DOS MIL
(C) 240, Mexico City, Mexico

1—ATLANTIS
(7) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico
2—VILLANO III
(1) 220, Mexico City, Mexico
3—MR. NIEBLA
(-) 185, Cualtitlan, Mexico
4—PIERROTH JR.
(10) 251, Cuernavaca, Mexico
5—DR. O'BORMAN JR.
(6) 185, Mexico City, Mexico
6—EL HIJO DEL SANTO
(4) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico
7—NEGRO CASAS
(-) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
8—RAYO DE JALISCO JR.
(5) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico
9—EMILIO CHARLES JR.
(-) 222, Mexico City, Mexico
10—BLUE PANTHER
(2) 215, Mexico City, Mexico

AAA

AAA Champion:
LATIN LOVER
(C) 190, Monterrey, Mexico

1—PIRATA MORGAN
(3) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
2—ABISMO NEGRO
(-) 210, Pachua, Mexico
3—PERRO AGUAYO JR.
(6) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico
4—CHARLY MANSON
(-) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
5—HEAVY METAL
(2) 180, Mexico City, Mexico
6—HECTOR GARZA
(1) 215, Monterrey, CA
7—EL TEXANO
(-) 225, Mexico City, Mexico
8—CIBERNETICO
(7) 235, Mexico City, Mexico
9—PERRO AGUAYO
(4) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico
10—BLUE DEMÓN JR.
(9) 180, Toluca, Mexico

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Supercard shakeups ... Now that *PWI's* spring supercard season is over, we thought we'd look at which new wrestlers emerged as major players in their respective federations. Of course, a lot of the major players going in to the pay-per-views remained major players regardless of the outcomes of their matches, but a few new players stepped up.

Vampiro

It's probably not coincidental that the federation that saw the fewest new stars emerging, WCW, got its worst buy rate of all-time at Uncensored 2000. The big wins on that show went to **Sid Vicious**, **Hulk Hogan**, **Sting**, **Don** and **Ron Harris**, and **Dustin Rhodes**—not exactly your big stars of tomorrow. The only relative newcomer to take a big step forward at Uncensored was **Vampiro**. His victory over **Fit Finlay** wasn't all that memorable, but he did help Sting beat **Lex Luger** and could benefit from a full-time alliance with his brother in paint.

Unfortunately for Vampiro, he didn't accomplish enough to earn a spot in our Top 10 this month. Once again, only World champ Vicious and U.S. champ **Jeff Jarrett** represent WCW in the Top 10. Let's hope that **Eric Bischoff** and **Vince Russo** can give the company the boost it has so desperately needed for months.

ECW's Living Dangerously pay-per-view won't rank as one of the federation's best of all-time, but as we discussed in our review of the show on page 30, that wasn't really due to lack of effort on anyone's part. Given that **Rob Van Dam** and **Jerry Lynn** were on the shelf with leg injuries, **Sabu** had just left the promotion, and **The Sandman** had to forfeit a scheduled match in order to tend to his injured wife, there was some pretty good action.

Living Dangerously 2000 will likely go down as the card on which **Super Crazy** officially became a big-time player in ECW. He overcame a lot of interference and obstacles to win the tournament for the vacant ECW TV title. Virtually everyone who had been watching ECW closely for the last few years knew Crazy had big-time talent, but he needed that breakthrough win, and it looks like this was it. He earned that number-eight spot in the Top 10.

Despite his loss to Crazy in the TV title tourney finals, **Rhino** also made a good showing at Living Dangerously and proved once and for all that he can be as ruthless as anyone. When he felt Sandman's wife, **Lori Fullington**, got in his way, he didn't hesitate for a second before viciously spearing her through a table! Anyone who doesn't think Rhino is a major player in ECW after Living Dangerously better not tell him that.

Even **Little Guido** took another small step forward at the PPV. Despite his loss to Crazy in the tournament semifinals, he turned in a strong performance. If he ever does disassociate himself from **Sal E. Graziano** and drops the comedy act for good, he could be a major player in ECW.

Chris Benoit

Of course, WrestleMania is always memorable for at least a few reasons. Besides the shocking turn of **Vince McMahon** this year, we saw both **Triple-H** and **The Rock** remain red-hot (both remain in our Top 10). We also saw **Chris Benoit** prove he's ready to be classified as an elite WWF star by winning the Intercontinental title cleanly in a three-way match with previous champ **Kurt Angle** and **Chris Jericho**. "The Canadian Crippler" grabs the number-five spot in our Top 10.

Christian and **Edge** made their first WrestleMania match a memorable one when they beat **The Dudley Boyz** and **The Hardy Boyz** for their first WWF World tag team title. Perhaps this was a big step for them in their effort to become a dominant team ... or perhaps one or both will use this win as a springboard for singles success. For now, they get the number-four ranking among tag teams.

Laugh at them or their collective name (**T & A**) if you will, but **Test** and **Albert** took a step forward at WrestleMania by beating **Al Snow** and **Steve Blackman**. With a few more key wins together, these two big bruisers should make our tag team ratings.

That's it for this month! If you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings, we want to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

THINK YOU'RE TOUGH?

Prove it, punk!

1) Create an imaginary wrestler using the coupon below or print the information on a piece of paper.

2) Send it with $1 for each opponent to: **IWA CHALLENGE**
Box 5275
WILLOWICK, OH 44095

3) See if your wrestler wins a *CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING BELT* in the IWA's exclusive "Rookie Brawl."

4) Compete against your friends for as little as $3 a month and win great prizes like engraved plaques, championship belts and lots more!

This is not a computer game or on-line game. After you prove yourself against these ten guys, you'll face wrestlers created by IWA players from all over the world!

WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. Airplane spin
2. Armbar
3. Armdrag
4. Armlock
5. Arm stretch
6. Arm whip
7. Asian spike
8. Bear hug
9. Biting
10. Body slam
11. Body tackle
12. Chicken wing
13. Choke
14. Claw
15. Clothesline
16. Cross body block
17. Double axehandle
18. Drop kick
19. Eagle split
20. Elbow smash
21. Eye gouge
22. Face rake
23. Fireman's carry ram
24. Flying body press
25. Flying clothesline
26. Flying drop kick
27. Flying elbow drop
28. Flying head butt
29. Flying mare
30. Forearm smash
31. Foreign object
32. Full nelson
33. Giant swing
34. Grapevine
35. Hair pulling
36. Hammerlock
37. Head lock
38. Head stomp
39. Heart punch
40. Hip roll
41. Irish whip
42. Knee drop
43. Leglock
44. Manager interference
45. Monkey flip
46. Overhead toss
47. Pole ram
48. Reverse chinlock
49. Rolling scissors
50. Rope burn
51. Savate kick
52. Scissors grip
53. Shoulder breaker
54. Slingshot
55. Snap mare
56. Step-over toe hold
57. Suplex
58. Surfboard
59. Turnbuckle smash
60. Wristlock

SET-UP HOLDS

61. Abdominal stretch
62. Atomic drop
63. Avalanche
64. Backbreaker
65. Backroll press
66. Belly to belly
67. Big splash
68. Boston crab
69. Brain buster
70. Bulldog
71. Camel clutch
72. Cobra clutch
73. Cradle
74. Crucifix
75. DDT
76. Figure four
77. Flying leg drop
78. Gourd buster
79. Indian death lock
80. Neckbreaker
81. Piledriver
82. Power bomb
83. Power slam
84. Russian sickle
85. Sleeper
86. Slingshot suplex
87. Small package
88. Spine buster
89. Sunset flip
90. Superplex

Copyright © 1999 Worlds Unlimited Inc. All Rights Reserved.

WWW.IWACHAT.COM

☐ *1. Big Ben*

☐ *2. Ace Stevens*

☐ *3. Jaeger van Dorn*

☐ *4. Bodybag Jones*

☐ *5. Wildfire Johnny Rage*

YOUR NAME (PRINT NEATLY) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

WRESTLER'S NAME (DO NOT USE ANY REAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES) _____

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 of the holds at the left numbered 1-60. Only use a hold once.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 of the holds at the left numbered 61-90. Only use a hold once.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

Finishing Hold: Create your own custom final maneuver or choose a hold from our list.

_____

Opponents: Check the box below each wrestler you wish to challenge.

☐ *6. Eric Darkstrom*

☐ *7. Nook the Secret Weapon*

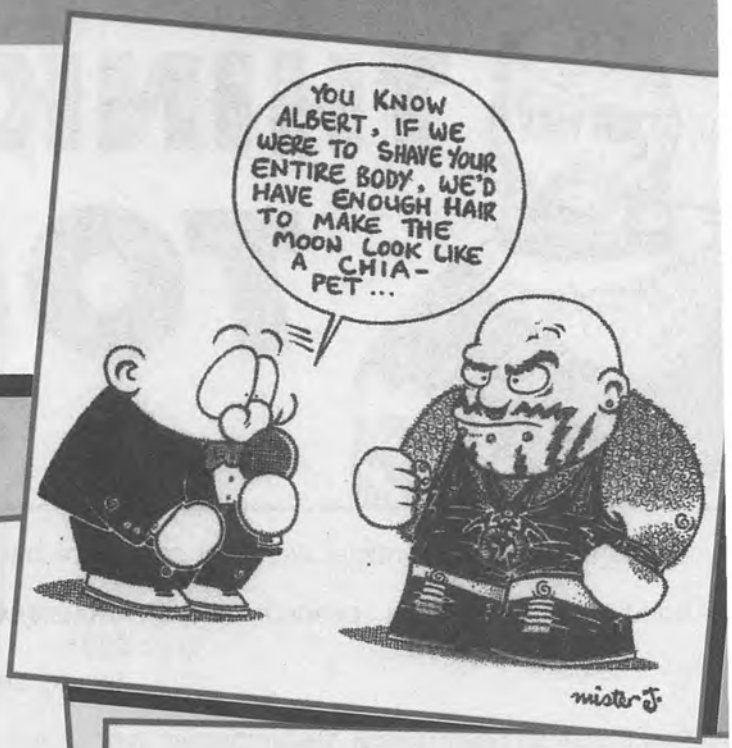
☐ *8. Derek Craven*

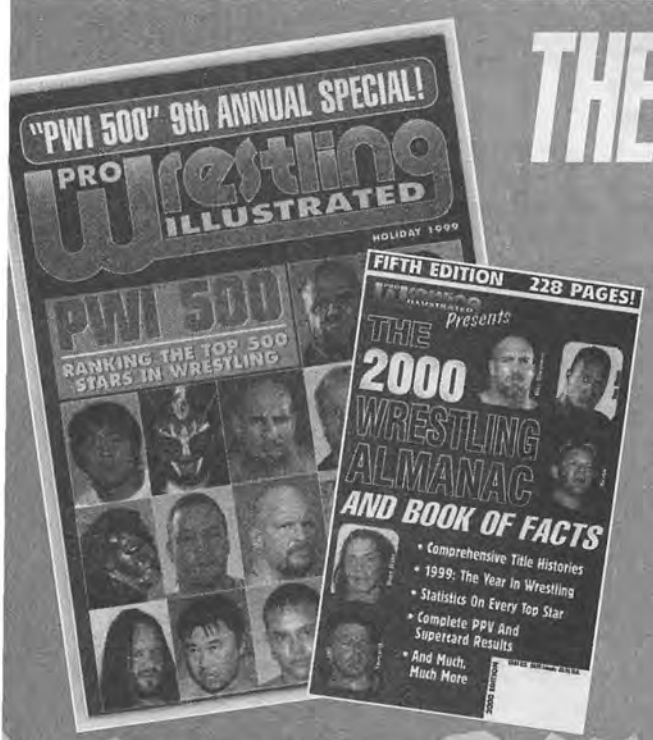
☐ *9. El Diablo Sanchez*

☐ *10. Tygar Singh*

drawing BLOOD

By Jason Conlan





THE PWI ALMANAC... CONSIDER IT A GIFT!

Just do what you'd do anyway... SUBSCRIBE TO PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED!

It's simple. Just subscribe to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, and as a bonus, we'll send you the *2000 PWI Almanac!* Our fifth edition, completely updated and revised includes ... 15 years of PPV results ... A complete review of 1999 ... Complete title lineages ... In all, 228 pages of vital wrestling information. This $5.95 value is yours FREE with a paid subscription to *PWI*, but only while supplies last!

SUBSCRIBE TO PWI TODAY AND RECEIVE ...

- 13 issues a year (that's one every four weeks!)
- Up to 25% off the newsstand price
- Four special 100-page issues, including the "Year-End Achievement Awards," "*PWI* 500," "The *PWI* Poll," and "Supercards" issues.
- Speedy delivery right to your home
- Your *2000 PWI Almanac And Book Of Facts*

EXCLUSIVE *PWI* FEATURES

PWI's award-winning staff is always where the action is, providing the most complete coverage of wrestling available anywhere. From the great staff of writers, through the dramatic peak-action photographs, to the magnificent full-color centerfold—**PWI** brings you wrestling action at its best. **PWI** includes exclusive features you can't get anywhere else: Our comprehensive "Arena Reports" ... Brandi Mankiewicz' lively and controversial "Off The Top Rope" ... An incisive "Press Conference" with one of the sport's top stars ... Extensive "Ratings" ... Monthly columns by Stu Saks, Dave Lenker, Dave Rosenbaum, Frank Krewda, Will Welsh, and Harry Burkett. And don't forget: Your subscription to **PWI** includes the four spectacular 100-page issues, priced at $4.95 on the newsstand (if you can find them!).

☑ Yes, I would like to subscribe to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

☐ I am enclosing $37.00 for a 13-issue subscription—a 20% savings off the newsstand price!

☐ I am enclosing $64.80 for a 26-issue subscription—a full 30% savings off the newsstand rate!

☐ I wish to receive the *2000 PWI Wrestling Almanac* as a bonus to my subscription and have enclosed $2 to cover postage and handling

☐ I would like to receive the *2000 PWI Almanac* only and have enclosed $7 as payment in full

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8121

NAME _____

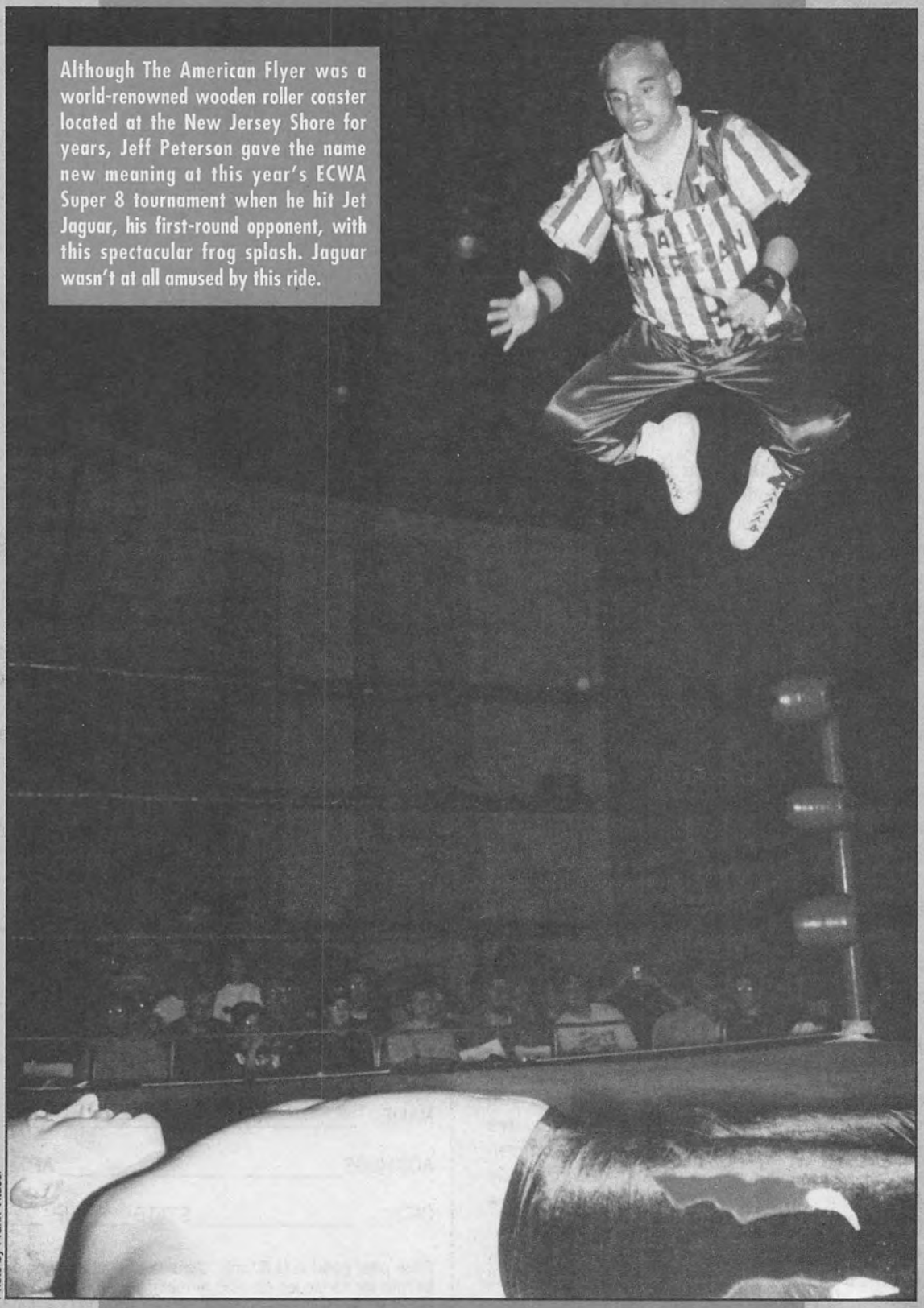
ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Price offer good in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $47.40 for 13 issues ($69.50 airmail); $85.60 for 26 issues ($129.80 airmail). International money order in U.S. funds only for orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

5178/01-00/2c

HOT SHOT



Although The American Flyer was a world-renowned wooden roller coaster located at the New Jersey Shore for years, Jeff Peterson gave the name new meaning at this year's ECWA Super 8 tournament when he hit Jet Jaguar, his first-round opponent, with this spectacular frog splash. Jaguar wasn't at all amused by this ride.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

REAL F'N FANS
REAL F'N HARD
REAL F'N WRESTLING

HARDCORE
ECW
REVOLUTION™

SEG FOR IT
2:17:00

WWW.HARDCOREREVOLUTION.COM

MATURE M CONTENT RATED BY ESRB

Animated Violence
Strong Language

NINTENDO 64

PlayStation®

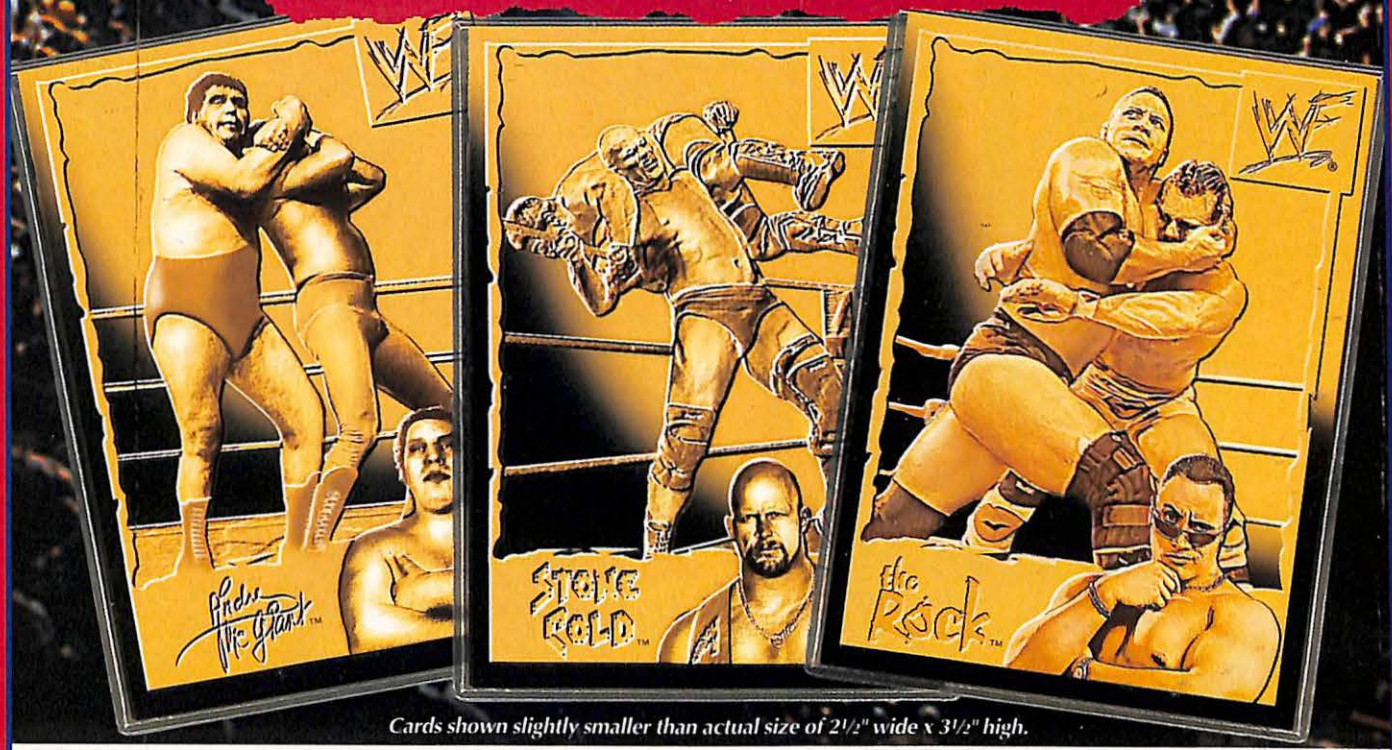
NO GAMERS UNDER 17
NO EXCEPTIONS

ECW is a trademark of HHG, Corp. ECW Hardcore Revolution™ and Acclaim® © 1999 Acclaim Entertainment, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Developed by Acclaim Studios Salt Lake City. All Rights Reserved. TNN® and the TNN logo are registered trademarks of Network Enterprises, Inc. Nintendo, Nintendo 64 and the "N" logo are trademarks of Nintendo of America Inc. © 1996 Nintendo of America Inc. Licensed by Nintendo. PlayStation and the PlayStation logos are registered trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. Screen shots shown were taken from the PlayStation version of the video game.

WATCH ECW FRIDAYS AT 8PM ON TNN®

Acclaim®
www.acclaim.com

22kt GOLD WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION® CARDS



Cards shown slightly smaller than actual size of 2½" wide x 3½" high.

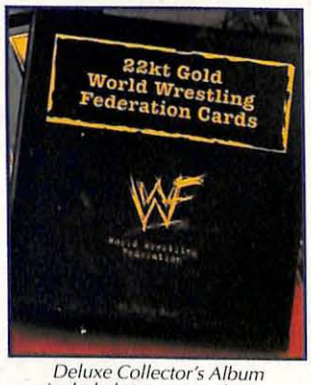
From today's stars such as Stone Cold Steve Austin™ and The Rock™ to legends such as Andre the Giant,™ the World Wrestling Federation® boasts an incredible lineup which includes some of the greatest Superstars in the world of sports-entertainment. Now you have the opportunity to bring all the thrills and excitement into your home. Presenting...*22kt Gold World Wrestling Federation Cards.*

A skilled artisan hand inscribes a detailed portrait of each Superstar in raised relief on a steel die, which is then used to strike the card on thin sheets of paper-backed 22kt gold foil. The result is a dramatic, three-dimensional image similar to that of a medal or coin. Each card is preserved in a crystal-clear protective case.

Officially authorized.

Officially authorized by the World Wrestling Federation®, the *22kt Gold World Wrestling Federation Cards* collection is available exclusively from the Danbury Mint. Your cards will be presented in a Deluxe Collector's Album with crystal-clear vinyl pages, *at no additional cost!*

Each card is just $9.95 (plus $.95 shipping and handling per card). Your first shipment will consist of one card. Thereafter, you will receive two cards every four weeks. Order today!



Deluxe Collector's Album included at no extra charge.

© MBI © 2000 World Wrestling Federation Entertainment, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Vital statistics and career highlights are included on the back of each card.

The steel dies used to strike each 22kt gold card are meticulously engraved.

Reservation Application

The Danbury Mint
47 Richards Ave., P.O.Box 4960
Norwalk, CT 06857

Send no money now.

22kt GOLD WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION® CARDS

Yes! Please reserve the *22kt Gold World Wrestling Federation Cards* collection as described above. I understand my satisfaction is guaranteed and I may return any card within 30 days.

Name _____
(Please print clearly)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Signature _____
Allow 4 to 8 weeks after payment for initial shipment.

_____
Name to appear on Deluxe Collector's Album.

GWC1E134